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Palestinian Affairs

PLO's Qaddumi on Damascus Talks, U.S. Stand

JN031548 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
2 May 88 p 19

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, by Shakir al-Jawhari in Damascus—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Jawhari] What are the common denominators on which you thought an agreement could be reached with Syria?

[Qaddumi] The Palestinians and Syrians are two Arab sides governed by the principles of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Our actions are also dictated by the popular demand to liberate the Palestinian and Arab occupied territories and coordinate joint confrontation of the Zionist Israeli enemy and the imperialist schemes which try to strike at the Arab liberation movement and the Palestinian revolution. These are the principles on which Arab relations as well as our relations with sisterly Syria are based.

[Al-Jawhari] These are firm principles for relations among Arabs. By the question I meant the principles governing relations under the current peculiar situation.

[Qaddumi] The uprising and confrontation of U.S. schemes are two basic objectives because the United States is trying through Shultz' ill-omened tours to find the forces to extinguish the uprising and preoccupy the world public and inform them that the United States is seeking a just solution to the Middle East crisis.

The truth is quite different; the United States is supporting Israel and its continuous fascist and Nazi practices against the Palestinian uprising.

[Al-Jawhari] I have learned that during your meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, he presented to you the famous seven points which represented Syria's viewpoint toward relations with the PLO.

I have also learned that you answered him by saying that supprting the uprising is now the urgent task and this support should be coordinated. What, in your opinion, can reconciliation with Syria achieve for the uprising?

[Qaddumi] It should be said that each party, and not just one, has several points. In fact, no seven points were proposed to us. This report is unfounded. The discussion is serious.

As for us, we are a revolution and it is known that we are waging a continuous struggle and offering sacrifices daily, every minute and every second. Therefore and on these grounds we discuss our relations with sisterly Syria and any other Arab country.

Our relations should be governed by the pan-Arab principles on which the Arab-Israeli conflict is based. Therefore, we believe that talk about seven or more or less points is not being proposed.

Each has his own views toward all proposed issues and the matter should be clearly presented. There is a dialogue and each has his own viewpoint toward numerous issues and things should be judged from daily practices.

[Al-Jawhari] Is reconciliation with Syria possible without the PLO's severance of ties with Egypt?

[Qaddumi] In my opinion there is no reconciliation; there is a return to normal relations on a high level of coordination, cooperation, and joint struggle. As for relations with Egypt, these require further details [as published] because Egypt and its people and Army are a major power.

We oppose Camp David and this is known and we are not the only ones who adopt such a stand toward the Camp David accords. The Arab nation has adopted a resolution toward these accords.

[Al-Jawhari] Does the resumption of coordination between Syria and the PLO necessarily mean that the two sides' viewpoints should be identical?

[Qaddumi] There is no need for stands to be identical on all matters. With respect to the Palestine cause and the liberation of Palestine, identical viewpoints are necesary. Perhaps we differ with Syria on our relations with Arab parties.

We have relations with Iraq and Jordan. Syria explictly told us that this is our own affiar. Stands should be identical on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the continuation of the confrontation of the Zionist Israeli enemy to liberate the occupied territories.

[Al-Jawhari] In your opinion, can the PLO do without the Egyptian channel of comunication with Washington?

[Qaddumi] In my capacity as official in charge of Palestinian diplomacy, I have never contacted Egypt to have it contact Washington.

[Al-Jawhari] But Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] did?

[Qaddumi] I am in charge of Palestinian diplomacy. You ask me and I answer you. This completely groundless.

[Al-Jawhari] What is the common denominator between the Palestinian and Syrian policies in Lebanon? What points of conflict and contradiction are there and can they be overcome?

[Qaddumi] We overcame everything in Lebanon. I believe our talks have demonstrated that the most important thing is to safeguard the Palestinian presence,

national unity, a national government, and Lebanon's Arab affiliation. This is what Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam had affirmed to us during our talks.

We have overcome all matters. We have learned lessons and want to maintain harmonious relations in the future.

[Al-Jawhari] Are there any Syrian reservations on the Palestinian presence in Lebanon?

[Qaddumi] No reservations were communicated to us.

[Al-Jawhari] do you expect Abu 'Ammar to visit Jordan or are there obstacles to this visit on the Palestinian side?

[Qaddumi] I do not believe there are any obstacles to this visit. However, we will set the appropriate date for Abu 'Ammar's visit to Jordan. His visit has a political meaning and significance as he is the chairman of the PLO. This means he will achieve a specific political objective through this visit. That's why we must take such a thing into consideration.

[Al-Jawhari] What political objective is there behind the Jordanian invitation?

[Qaddumi] You must ask Jordan.

[Al-Jawhari] If coordination is resumed between Syria and the PLO, will you try to reconcile Syria and Iraq so you can balance your relations with both sides?

[Qaddumi] We are eager to clear the Arab atmospheres and enhance joint Arab struggle and Arab solidarity. If we can do something in this respect to consolidate relations between Iraq and Syria, then we will not hesitate to do so. We made such efforts in the past and we will make efforts in the future if we are asked to do so.

We are continuously working to create fraternal atmospheres and prepare circumstances so Iraqi-Syrian contacts and dialogue may take place that will lead to positive results.

[Al-Jawhari] The initiation of talks and dialogue with Syria dictates the expansion of the framework of Palestinian national unity. You took care to form an intra-Palestinian committee for dialogue. What is its configuration and what has it done?

[Qaddumi] The 18th PNC session made large strides on the road to Palestinian national unity. Procedural matters remain to be carried out. The committee will pursue its contacts when a new PNC session is held to complete these procedural matters and to remove some negative aspects which prevent the brothers from acting through the PLO framework.

[Al-Jawhari] The Syrian information minister said that when Damascus agreed to the arrival of a PLO delegation in Damascus to attend Abu Jihad's [Khalil al-Wazir's] funeral, it had in mind the restoration of Palestinian national unity. Is one to understand from this that there is a Syrian condition in this respect?

[Qaddumi] I believe that Palestinian national unity is an issue that concerns Palestinians alone. The Palestinian organizations are the primary parties concerned with such an issue.

The Arab brothers in Syria and other Arab countries within the framework of an Arab decision are working to enhance this Palestinian national unity. We appreciate these efforts by our Arab brotehrs. However, this is a Palestinian concern, first and foremost.

[Al-Jawhari] What took place between you and the PNSF leaders in Damascus?

[Qaddumi] The PNSF?

[Al-Jawhari] I mean Khalid al-Fahum.

[Qaddumi] The truth is that I did not think about the PNSF when I talked to brothers such as Khalid al-Fahum and 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar. I harbor amity and esteem for both brothers. I held talks with them as brothers who have a long militant record.

[Al-Jawhari] How will the PNC be reconstituted since its mandate expired last February?

[Qaddumi] We will discuss this issue in the PLO Executive Committee meetings following our return if circumstances allow. What is important now is to continue supporting the uprising.

[Al-Jawhari] Upon discussing the subject, will you consider the issue of expanding the framework of national unity and regaining the small factions?

[Qaddumi] We did not prevent any PNC member, organization, or faction from attending the PNC session. The subject is not settled by a decision by the leadership but by a resolution by the PNC and the PLO's broad national front. They are free to come and free to leave.

[Al-Jawhari] But the concerned factions have conditions. In Algeria, Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] came and expressed his readiness to participate and requested membership on the Executive Committee. So did the [Palestinian Popular] Struggle Front.

[Qaddumi] I do not consider Brother Abu Nidal within this framework.

[Al-Jawhari] What about the presidency of the PNC? Will reconciliation with Syria be followed by a change in the PNC speaker, especially since Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih's health does not help him to continue in his post?

[Qaddumi] These are purely Palestinian affairs that are discussed within the PLO's framework.

[Al-Jawhari] Have you received any messages from the Soviet leaders during your presence in Syria?

[Qaddumi] I have not received messages, but Ambassador Dzasokhov visited me. He is an old friend who was working in the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee.

[Al-Jawhari] Was there an attempt to be reassured about the progress of the talks with Syria and to push these talks ahead?

[Qaddumi] They thankfully exerted successful efforts in this regard. Algeria also played a role. The efforts were just beginning when Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi came to Damascus in February.

His efforts resulted in a meeting between me and Brother Faruq al-Shar' in Tunisia in March.

I then met with Brother al-Shar' within the framework of the Arab ministerial committee which visited the capitals of the UN Security Council permanent member states.

[Al-Jawhari] How do you assess your meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam?

[Qaddumi] It was a comfortable, warm, clear, and frank meeting during which many i's were dotted. However, despite this warm and comradely language, clarity and frankness marked the discussion of all political affairs. (This interview was conducted before 'Arafat's arrival in Damascus and before the Fatah Central Committee meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad)

[Al-Jawhari] Can we say there has been a positive change in the Syrian stand, according to which Damascus has agreed to coordination with the PLO without stipulating identical stands?

[Qaddumi] Firstly, we should state frankly that dialogue between us and our brothers in Syria began a long time ago. Brotherly and friendly quarters worked to expedite this dialogue.

Our presence in Damascus is clear proof that the fruits of this dialogue have begun to mature. We will continue to reap these fruits and we need more time to reap all the fruits.

[Al-Jawhari] Has Damascus begun to accept the idea of incompatible stands?

[Qaddumi] You and your wife may differ. A political party may witness different trends. And even brothers may differ on details, so it is not necessary for us to agree on all issues. We may differ for instance on our relations with certain Arab regimes.

The Soviets are our close friends, yet they recognize Resolution 242 and we do not. We may hold different viewpoints on certain issues, but we must agree on basic matters.

[Al-Jawhari] Syria is asking you to sever relations with Egypt?

[Qaddumi] Nobody is asking us anything.

[Al-Jawhari] Let us say Syria has reservations about your relations with Egypt and certain Jewish parties. It also has reservatiosn about the PLO's present handling of Resolutions 242 and 338 and the idea of mutual recognition with Israel. If the PLO were to respond to all these Syrian reservations, it would not be in a position to take any political action. What is your opinion?

[Qaddumi] All these assumptions which you have mentioned may not represent the truth because we have not heard these conditions. We had a dialogue. And what I said was that there may have been some disagreement over the details.

You definitely sound pessimistic about our relations with Syria. On the contrary, we have covered a lot of ground and the fact that we, Syria, Iraq, and Jordan are in a single committee for coordination is most significant.

Arab political reality has begun to accept the return of Arab solidarity and joint Arab action. Differences are slowly disappearing. The uprising has had a great effect in creating the right atmosphere for consolidating joint Arab action.

[Al-Jawhari] How will the coordination with Syria affect the atmosphere of the next Arab summit if it is held in June?

[Qaddumi] As I said, we are coordinating our stands through the seven-member committee. We have presented common opinions during our contacts with France, the USSR, the PRC, and others.

When a committee met with Shultz, it also presented viewpoints which we previously agreed upon by the seven-member committee. These viewpoints were conveyed to the secretary, who suddenly got angry and said he was pessimistic about a solution to the Middle East crisis.

[Al-Jawhari] What made him say that?

[Qaddumi] He hates Arabs. It seems the period in which he dealt with the Arabs has created many complexities for him. This is in addition to the fact that the present U.S. Administration has been hostile right from the first moment.

It used to cry out loudly against the PLO and Palestinian struggle. It has also supported and assisted Israel more than any other administration. Thank God it has been exposed by several scandals, from Irangate and the Attorney General Meese affair to the spy Pollard. This U.S. Administration is rotten.

[Al-Jawhari] What do you expect from the coming administration?

[Qaddumi] At least to be the better of two evils...to be better than the first evil.

[Al-Jawhari] What will Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze discuss with Shultz in light of your recent visit to Moscow? (The two ministers met before this interview was published)

[Qaddumi] When we were in the Soviet Union we specified our rejection of the Shultz plan. We said we did not think Shultz was coming to discuss a solution, but to extinguish our people's uprising.

Hence, if the United States desires a solution, it should contact the PLO and be acquainted with its viewpoint. But we know it is an outgoing administration that will be replaced by another and the U.S. Administration will not be able to undertake any action in an election year. In addition, the administration seeks to impose capitulation on the Arabs.

[Al-Jawhari] Thus there will be no solution as long as this administration is in the stage of departure.

[Qaddumi] We do not pin any hopes on the U.S. Administration to exert acceptable efforts in the peace process.

[Al-Jawhari] But this administration, which is about to go, managed to reach a solution to the issue of Afghanistan with the Soviets.

[Qaddumi] This is due to the Soviet Union's flexibility and real desire to establish peace and resolve regional conflicts. In fact, this desire constituted tremendous international pressure, as is the case in the Security Council where the European member states and the friendly Soviet Union and China supported the resolution which condemned Israel for its iron-fist policy, but the United States stood against it.

[Al-Jawhari] How can the Soviet flexibility apply to dealing with the Americans vis-a-vis the Palestine question?

[Qaddumi] The Soviet Union, which decided to enter Afghanistan to help the government there, decided to withdraw and continue to support the progressive government there.

This has undoubtedly made the situation more flexible. The Soviet stand was also marked by flexibility toward the issue of short-range missiles when it agreed to include only the Soviet-U.S. missiles in the agreement and not the European missiles, such as the French and British ones, as these missiles fall within the framework of maintaining these states' internal security. In contrast, the U.S. missiles are alien to Europe and should be pulled out in accordance with the concluded agreement.

Upon discussing the Palestine question with the Soviet Union and Soviet participation in an international conference, there was insistence on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination with all that this signifies; namely, a Palestinian state through the method of international accord that seeks to resolve regional problems.

It is well known that the Soviet Union recognizes Israel and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. It is also well known that it severed its diplomatic relations with Israel.

The Soviet Union states that a settlement should be based on the Palestinian people's national rights, especially their right to self-determination, in addition to the Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. This flexibility does not ignore the Palestinian people's rights.

Radio Station To Broadcast to 'Occupied' Areas

JN032037 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2015 GMT 3 May 88

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee continued its meetings in Baghdad today under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat. Talks centered on the latest developments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the new Israeli incursion into some areas in southern Lebanon.

The Executive Committee has decided to set up a new radio station which will broadcast to the occupied territories.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message from Noriega

LD0305211988 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received a message from General Manuel Noriega, commander of the Army and National Guard in Panama, in which Gen Noriega expresses his greetings and wishes for success and progress.

Gen Noriega adds in his message to the brother leader that Panama continues to confront imperialist aggression and that "the Panamanian people need your solidarity and understanding."

MENA Accused of 'Cheap Lies' on Border Issue

LD0305151888 Tripoli JANA in English 1429 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Ma' [May] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Egyptian state-run MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY has propagated allegations it has leaked to some media organs expressing its anxiety over demolishing the artificial borders between the Arab people in Al-Jamahiriyah and Tunisia.

This agency says that the Libyan side has agreed to operate the border centre at the request of Tunisia which, the agency points out, is going to implement new security measures in all cross-border centres between the two countries.

Such doubt-engendering coming in the series of fabrications and cheap lies reveals the orientation of the above agency that has started since the 1970s propagating it in the Arab region thereby supporting with information campaign the imperialist onslaught against the Arab nation and its causes.

It is commonplace to stress that the orientation of this agency and its personnel deal directly with the CIA and its organs that spread like the tentacles of octopus in the establishment of Egyptian regime.

The above allegations of this agency exposes its nature that it is no more than a tool in the hands of the Zionists and CIA.

JANA Political Editor on Mubarak Speech

LD0305103888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, 3 May (JANA)—In a speech the day before yesterday to mark May Day, the Egyptian president said that the issue of a war with Libya is out of the question, even though Egypt is stronger, whether Libya likes it or not.

The Egyptian president added that he had expressed his readiness to respond to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's call to open the Egyptian border with Libya, on condition there be mutual trust between the two sides and an understanding not to introduce bombs and terrorism.

Commenting on this, JANA's political editor says: We are not afraid of Egypt being the stronger, and if this is so, then it should use its power to confront the United States and Zionism, which are material and moral colonialists, holding their military maneuvers on Arab Egyptian territory.

Libya, though weaker, would be behind Egypt if it confronted these real enemies. Besides, the Egyptian Army, the army of 'Abd al-Nasir, knows very well what Libya's role was in the battle for the crossing [of the Suez in October 1973], when it assumed its very modest pan-Arab duty—because it was very weak as described by Brother Muhammad Husni [Mubarak].

The editor further says: Regarding the Libyan bombs which terrorize him continuously, we challenge him before the Arabs to explain when and where they were dropped on Egypt.

The editor stresses that Egypt was destroyed by the bombs of the Israelis, which terrorizes it, and now it is being disfigured and terrorized by U.S. bombs, which are dropped on its territory every year [during maneuvers].

Referring to the words of the Egyptian president, that Egypt insults no one, the editor says these words have evoked surprise and derision among the Arab brothers, who have in their hands the article of Ibrahim Sa'dah, which was written on orders from Brother Husni himself in the paper of his ruling party on 9 April 1988. However, it would seem that the article was dictated but not checked.

Sudan

Party Leader Statement on New Government

JN031748 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Khartoum May 3 (SUNA)—Secretary General of Democratic Unionist Party Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi has expressed his pessimism over the formation of the coming reconciliatory government.

In a statement to the daily AL-AYYAM, Al-Hindi said that the differences nowadays among the major political parties which are expected to form the government is a clear evidence for the failure of reconciliatory formula reached by the co-allied parties.

The current accord will not push forward or solve any problem in the country, he said

The Constitutent Assembly "parliament" yesterday adjourned its sitting to be held Wednesday to give more time for consultation on the appointment of the house speaker which is one of issues of difference among the co-allied political parties.

The National Islamic Front had nominated Ahmad Sulayman, a famous lawyer, but this proposal opposed by many members from the Al-Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party on the grounds that he had worked as minister in the first stage of Numayri's defunct regime.

Meanwhile, leader of Al-Ummah Party Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi yesterday met with leader of the Democratic Unionist Party Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani and conveyed to him the outcome of his consultation with the National Islamic Front "NIF".

He told Al-Mirghani that if the NIF insisted on the nomination of Mr Sulayman the Al-Ummah Party would nominate an independent national figure. Al-Mirghani told Al-Mahdi that the Democratic Unionist Party supported the nomination of an independent national figure.

Radio on Rebels' Relations With Ethiopia

LD0305185688 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Abrupt developments have tak n place affecting relations between the Ethiopian Government and the rebel movement following the meetings of the Sudanese-Ethiopian joint committee.

Garang's movement [SPLM] has started to shift its main offices from Addis Ababa to the Gambela border area. Reports say this sudden development constitutes a precautionary measure on the part of the movement's leaders against possible steps the Ethiopian Government might take regarding Garang's movement, following the joint committee meetings.

It also confirms the reports about the movement's efforts to transfer its activities from Ethiopia to Kenya.

Meanwhile, large numbers of Ethiopian troops have begun to cross the Sudanese border, fleeing the current battles in Eritrea against the Eritrean People's Liberation Front.

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Interviewed by AL-NAHAR

NC0305100388 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 29 Apr 88 pp 1,9

[Interview with Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-NAHAR] It is being said that a state of confusion prevailed in Tunisia in wake of the recent Israeli operation. In Lebanon, of course, we are used to Israeli violations and military operations. How did you handle the matter of the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]?

[Mestiri] Naturally, the operation took us by surprise, given the geographical distance and Tunisia's stand. You know that Tunisia is close to Western Europe, both geographically and in other respects.

Aggression, ugly as it is, is bound to create problems for Israel, even with Western Europe. I am not saying Tunisia is protected because of its closeness to Europe.

However, we had expected some kind of respect for international norms. We were taken by surprise, it is true. This made the matter even more painful. At any rate, our Palestinian brothers are strugglers and they accept sacrifice.

The sacrifice was great, because we lost an important figure like Khalil al-Wazir. We see the operation from two angles. First, it is a terrorist act directed at Palestinian figures. We will take further measures in the near future to protect our Palestinian brothers...

[AL-NAHAR] Is it not your responsibility to protect them?

[Mestiri] In fact, we do not want to say the Palestinians were responsible. The responsibility was supposed to be shared between both parties. We are responsible for what happens in the streets in Tunisia and they are responsible for what happens within their homes.

There is agreement between the two parties. To tell the truth, no Palestinian official has accused Tunisia of providing insufficient protection. However, this is not the main issue. To us, the main issue is Israeli aggression against Tunisia, its sovereignty, and its sacred soil. [passage omitted]

[AL-NAHAR] What is your opinion of the U.S. threat to use the veto? We, in Lebanon, are accustomed to U.S. opposition to any resolution which would condemn Israel.

[Mestiri] We have relations with the United States which are based on common interests. Despite the U.S. stand on the Middle East and Palestinian issues, we still respect our interests with America and we are linked by good and friendly ties with the United States. The same thing applies to the United States.

Despite our hostile position toward Israel, which is a U.S. ally, the United States values its ties with us and considers that our friendship is based on common interests.

Recognition of mutual interests is what makes dialogue easier. They need our friendship as much as we need theirs. Hence it was difficult for them to use the veto against us.

[AL-NAHAR] If they had used the veto, what would you have done?

[Mestiri] Our mutual interests would have been affected, no doubt.

[AL-NAHAR] Do you think the United States bears part of the responsibility for the Israeli operation? It has even been said it provided cover for the operation?

[Mestiri] We do not think so. Anyway, the 6th Fleet is present in the Mediterranean and it is used to seeing Israeli submarines. Israeli submarines may have come to the area before. They may have come on previous intelligence missions.

[AL-NAHAR] Have you been in touch with the U.S. ambassador on this matter?

[Mestiri] Naturally. And we have contacted Washington. We are on very friendly terms with the Pentagon. We have good mutual relations and there is a considerable degree of trust.

[AL-NAHAR] There is fear in Lebanon about the Lebanese passports used in the operation. Has this matter been settled?

[Mestiri] The matter has been clarified and settled completely. There were three passports: a totally forged one and two others which were taken from Lebanese citizens and altered illegally.

[AL-NAHAR] Then no responsibility falls on Lebanon?

[Mestiri] We never thought, even for a moment, that Lebanon bore any responsibility. Tunisia and Lebanon are linked by extraordinary spiritual ties which can be traced back to the pre-Islamic era, even before the Arabs came to the region. We never thought for a moment that Lebanon had anything to do with the operation.

[AL-NAHAR] Is it true that, during his recent visit to Tunisia, U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci expressed concern over the new relations between Libya and Tunisia?

[Mestiri] Not in this sense. It is natural for the Americans to ask and inquire about our relations with Libya and for us to respond. The Libyans are our neighbors and we are linked by many interests and by human relations.

It may be there are no two other peoples in the region who are as close to each other as the Tunisians and Libyans are. Regimes may differ, this is true.

However, we cannot break relations between the two peoples. In fact, we sensed the willingness of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and his regime to restore ties between the two peoples.

[AL-NAHAR] What is your view of Minister Walid Junblatt's statement in which he condemned Tunisia in the wake of Abu Jihad's assassination?

[Mestiri] We were astonished, because Minister Junblatt has repeatedly expressed his desire to come to Tunis. In fact, we do not regard Junblatt as an important leader in the region.

We are aware that the situation in Lebanon makes it possible for every group to express its views. However, his views count for nothing at all as far as public opinion in Tunisia and the Arab world is concerned. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Statement Calls for Moroccan Cooperation

LD0305170288 Algiers APS in Arabic 1415 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Liberated Territories, 3 May (APS)—In a statement published last night in Madrid, the Polisario Front and the SDAR Government called upon the Moroccan Government to "cooperate and stop hindering the international community's efforts to implement the peace plan stipulated by OAU Resolution 104 and UN Resolution 4287 on the problem of Western Sahara."

The statement pointed out that "the main obstacle to a genuine referendum, which would allow the Saharan people to exercise their right to self-determination, is the presence of units of the Moroccan administration and settlers in the Saharan territories."

It added: "The Saharan authorities hope the Moroccan Government will take the opportunity of the UN secretary general's visit to put an end to such an obstacle and arrive at a peaceful, just, and lasting solution to the conflict between the SADR and the Kingdom of Morocco."

The statement added that the bad reception accorded Kenneth Kaunda, the current OAU chairman, in Morocco, indicates Morocco will, whenever the situation warrants, procrastinate in finding a just and honorable solution to the conflict in Western Sahara.

Following changes in his timetable, the OAU secretary general is now due to meet with the Polisario secretary general and SADR president during the second half of this month. This meeting will take place during the forthcoming OAU summit due to be held in Addis Ababa.

Saudi Arabia

Report of Iranian Consulate Attack 'Untrue'

LD0405084988 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0225 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Riyadh 4 May (SPA) — Replying to yesterday's news agency and radio reports quoting Tehran radio, which claimed that Saudi security forces attacked the Iranian Consulate in Jeddah today [3 May] and took its staff to an unknown place, an official source told SPA that the Tehran radio broadcast, which was subsequently quoted by the news media, is wholly untrue and unfounded.

He said the measures taken were in line with customary diplomatic norms in force under such circumstances.

The source added that it is possible for Saudi security forces to reciprocate the action taken by the Iranian regime at 0700 on Saturday, 1 August 1987, when Iranian revolutionary guards stormed the Saudi Embassy building in Tehran. They burned the building and its contents, killed one of its staff, and detained the rest of the staff for several days.

However, the Kingdom considers itself, as usual, too proud to stoop to the Iranian demagogues' well known practices.

The source asserted: "The staff of the Iranian Consulate in Jeddah and the of Iranian Embassy in Riyadh have all left, taking with them all their equipment, in a trouble-free security atmosphere. Nobody was harmed."

Interior Minister on Iranian Pilgrims, Terrorism

JN031630 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 2 May 88 pp 1, 20

[Interview with Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz by Ahmad al-Jarallah; date, place not given]

[Text] Question: Your Highness, is the severing of ties with Iran related to the security issue?

Answer: Saudi Arabia was very magnanimous. We wanted to show good intentions toward Iran, an Islamic country. We wanted this. But Iran misinterpreted our long patience. It considered it weakness on our part.

We decided to sever relations to deprive miscreants of any opportunity to disturb Saudi security. Iran has misused its diplomatic pouches. However, this was not important. The important thing to us is that we tried to give a good impression to Iran.

However, Iran has shown ingratitude instead. We decided to sever relations with Iran not only because of security issues but because of other things also.

Question: Your Highness, are reports that the Iranian Embassy in your country was used as an arsenal true?

Answer: This is not so. The violation of diplomatic norms are known to our security apparatus. I do not believe they were able to bring in important weapons. They could have brought in, through the diplomatic pouches, certain limited but unimportant items. The important thing is that severing ties with Iran was not for security reasons only.

Question: Your Highness, Iran says it will not heed the number of pilgrims defined by you and that it will send as many people as it wants to perform the pilgrimage.

Answer: The decision made was an Islamic one before it was a Saudi one. The Islamic countries, which are more important and larger than Iran in terms of potential and population, agreed on the decision.

The Islamic countries decided that Iran can send 45,000 pilgrims to perform the pilgrimage. No more than this number will arrive in the Kingdom. We are implementing the Islamic countries' decision and we, not Iran, are concerned with this.

Iran must accept reason and logic. How come it wants to send more pilgrims than Islamic countires with bigger populations? There are more Muslims in India than in Iran; there are more Muslims in Pakistan than in Iran; there are 100 milion Muslims in Bangladesh; and 120 milion Muslims in Indonesia. There are fewer pilgrims from those countries than Iran.

Those countries have responded postively to the decision to limit the number of pilgrims. Some of these countries will even send less than the number decided within the framework of the Islamic countries' decisions. The reason being that those countries have responded positively to the circumstances in our country after we explained them.

Iran, however, opted for the opposite, as usual. We reject this. We, and not Iran, implement the Islamic world's decisions.

Question: Your Highness, what are the circumstances which prevent the Kingdom from meeting the Iranian request?

Answer: The city of Mecca cannot receive more pilgrims than its capacity. The public utlities, including housing in the holy city of Mecca, are old. There are other houses and those who are financially capable can reserve these houses.

The middle-class people of the Islamic world pilgrims arrive in Mecca without booking in advance. A great number of people arrive in Mecca before the season and we find people are without shelter. Some of them sleep on the streets. We can cope with this situation on a security level but on other levels we cannot.

In light of this, the Saudi Government, which is responsible for the comfort of the pilgrims, decided to develop the housing facilities in Mecca. We found that large areas consisting of large old buildings are not being used.

The government has encouraged the establishment of joint companies whose profits will be guaranteed by the government. The role of these companies will be to reach an understanding with the owners of these old houses and large areas so they will be developed to become large housing complexes that will contain all facilities and utilities needed by the pilgrims.

These housing complexes are being prepared with the help of the private sector. The owners of the used areas of land will be partners or shareholders in accordance with the current land prices.

Such an advanced and costly plan takes time, although we are eager to accomplish it in the next 3 years. We want every pilgrim to know where he will stay and how to visit Mecca and perform his pilgrimage.

We are planning to perform a great work. All the Islamic countries have responded to our request except Iran, which wants to send unreasonable numbers of pilgrims, which will constitute a burden for the holy city of Mecca.

The reception of 2.2 million pilgrims within a short period, adding to the 1.25 million inhabitants of Mecca, requires planning and preparation. Moreover, we can halt pilgrimage by foreigners residing in Saudi Arabia.

Muslims constitute 75 percent of the foreigners. Every year we face this problem when they decide to perform pilgrimage. We cannot prevent them or close roads to Mecca.

The custodian of the two holy mosques called on the citizens to abide by certain rules and urged Saudi citizens not to perform pilgrimage every year unless he is escorting a lady pilgrim.

The citizens responded to this call. We also asked the Muslim foreigners to organize their presence in Mecca during pilgrimage to avoid overcrowding. In 1401 Hegira, we found ourselves face to face with 1.5 million pilgrims. This is a very high number.

Development projects are being implemented by our country in Mecca and holy Medina. But the growing number of pilgrims overwhelms these projects. Hence, the Islamic countries understood these circumstances and responded to our request.

Question: Your Highness: What if the Iranian pilgrims come aboard passenger planes without your knowledge and decide to land? Reports indicate they are planning this.

Answer: This will not happen because they have to obtain entry permits. If this happens, we will send them back to their country, because we will never allow them to enter if there are no previous arrangements and if they exceed the number allowed. We will carry out this decision firmly.

Question: Your Highness, what if they come in the number you have agreed upon and stage demonstrations similar to those of last year?

Answer: This will also not happen. They violated security last year. The world saw this crime which took place for the first time in the holy places. We will not allow them to repeat this.

Any activities other than the basic pilgrimage rituals will be confronted decisively and firmly and this is a matter about which the Iranians are well-informed.

Question: Your Highness, you were so lenient with them, however, during the previous pilgrimage years that they began to think you were intimidated by them.

Answer: This was not leniency on our part. It was patience shown within the framework of showing goodwill. We used to believe Iran was a state with Muslims and we were supposed to maintain good relations with it.

However, the Iranians did not reciprocate this, despite the fact they knew at the time we were firm. The evidence of this is that they saw for themselves how we did not permit them to exceed their pilgrimage quota in the pilgrimage year of 1403 Hegira [1983], the year which saw the height of their disturbances caused in the world.

In that year, we deported their pilgrimage mission which was headed by Musavi [not further identifed]. We did not hesitate to deport their mission. We also repatriate all troublemakers.

Some of their pilgrimage mission members were afraid because of the measures that were taken at the time. Of course, they only remember what they choose to. They sometimes choose to forget what really transpired at the time.

During last year's pilgrimage season, their riots were excessive and reached unbearable limits. However, we did not allow them to achieve their objectives. They caused the death of many pilgrims of the House of God.

Question: Your Highness, did the Iranians try to penetrate Saudi security?

Answer: Yes, they tried several times, but they failed. They tried to tempt the simpletons, but they were discovered and all of this is over. The simpletons have confessed and are seeking pardon.

All these matters are being handled in accordacne with the national interest. In all candidness, the Iranians have tried, but they have failed. They will never succeed in exporting their terrorism to us.

Question: Your Highness, it is being said that you have not disclosed many of the events that have occurred.

Answer: We have not concealed anything important. Major acts of sabotage reveal themselves anyway. They cannot be concealed. If anything happens we will announce it.

We will also announce the name of the perpetrator and his punishment. Indeed, there have been attempts as I said, but they were not implemented. This was because the security authorities had obtained prior information.

Our society is alert to self-defense and therefore it is difficult to penetrate.

Question: Your Highness, how can we put an end to international terrorism?

Answer: This will only be possible through international cooperation. Unfortunately, terrorism now is backed by organizations and even states which help in planning and defending it.

Take the Kuwaiti airliner "Al-Jabiriyah" for instance. What happened to the hijackers? They slipped from the hand of justice. This is bound to encourage others to carry out such operations.

Therefore, there must be international cooperation to protect the citizens and properties of all countries from blackmail. Otherwise, we must expect similar hijackings and other forms of terrorism.

Question: Your Highness, what security measures are the GCC countries taking in such an atmosphere?

Answer: The tension in international relations prompts us in the GCC in pool efforts and take swift action on security matters. There should be more flexibility and more cooperation.

The security situation now is not bad, but it requires more cooperation. By this, I mean cooperation compatible with the rapid movement of events in the world.

Question: Your Highness, the Gulf is known for its tough policy against drugs; why is that?

Answer: Trust me, if I were not in this position, I would have gone out and fought narcotics. This poison must be fought relentlessly. One can treat any disease that affects the body and the mind, but narcotics destroy the body and the mind.

A criminal can kill one or two persons, but a drug trafficker can kill a whole family, and possibly an entire society. This is why I am satisfied with Saudi Arabia's measures against drug smugglers, measures which can reach capital punishment. We have already carried out several such punishments, although at one time some people thought this would be difficult.

We have carried out executions and this resulted in a reduction in the smuggling of this deadly commodity. All this goes to show that the correct measures were taken.

As I said, narcotics kill the body and the mind. It is a slow death and the criminal must be punished with death for causing the death of families and societies.

This is why I fight narcotics and will continue to fight them.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,165

JN031811 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1710 GMT 3 May 88

[Communique No 3,165 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 3 May]]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continued their activities last night and today as follows:

1. Five enemy personnel were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector. Also, in the II Army Corps central sector three infantry positions and one heavy machinegun emplacement were destroyed and their occupants killed.

2. Five enemy personnel were killed and two machineguns and one infantry position were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. Furthermore, one ammunition dump was destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

3. Three enemy scondrels were killed and one machinegun and one infantry position were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris. Furthermore, one Bockline excavator, one machinegun, and one infantry position were also destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

4. At a time when Iraq has announced its moratorium on bombing Iranian cities, the Iranian regime, which feels no responsibility toward its peoples and lacks all ethical values, has continued from time to time to shell our secure cities and townships in a deliberate attempt to reignite the war of the cities.

The despotic enemy fired its long-range artillery on the township of Darband-i Khan this morning. The enemy shelling wounded a woman and a child. We would like to affirm to the Iranian regime that their defense wall is fragile in the face of the devastating Iraqi superiority, as has been demonstrated to the entire world in this field and in others.

We will not show for long this patience over the violation of the principles according to which we stopped bombing Iranian cities. Our reply will be more cruel than what has been expected and seen by the Iranian rulers, the agents of Zionism.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 3 May 1988

Communique No 3,166

JN041143 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1110 GMT 4 May 88

[Communique No 3,166 issued by the Armed Forces General Command 4 May]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

The following heroic missions were simultaneously carried out at 1130 [0730 GMT] today:

1. A number of our planes carried out a devastating raid on the Shiraz refinery. They destroyed their targets, set them ablaze, and left columns of smoke covering them.

2. Another group of our planes carried out a devastating raid on the extremely important petrochemical complex in Shiraz. Our planes violently destroyed their targets.

Our brave hawks penetrated enemy air defenses and reached their targets to deal these violent blows. The criminal Iranian regime should realize that its rejection of peace calls and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and its insistence on continuing aggression against our country will not be to its advantage, regardless of the time span.

In fact, time will further destroy it. The righteous Iraqi men will destroy its war machine and bury its remnants. Iraq will become stronger and achieve further victories.

Glory to you, O men of our heroic Air Force—commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks. You promised and you have fulfilled, and you fought and have received the satisfaction of God and the leader. It is God who grants success.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 4 May 1988

IDF Search Operation in S. Lebanon Continues

IDF 'Objectives' Attained

TA0405045688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Any operation that gives us even 1 day of peace in the north is clear profit on its own merit, a senior military source in the Northern Command said. Even at this point, senior IDF officers say the IDF's operation has attained its objectives.

Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports from the north:

[Begin recording] The search operations in southern Lebanon will continue this morning as well. Throughout the operation there have been no confrontations, fire has not been opened, and the forces have not encountered any resistance.

It is not yet clear how many terrorists or collaborators have been captured or the amount of weapons found in the villages that were searched, particularly in 'Ayn 'Ata.

Syrian troops stationed some 25 km northeast of the IDF forces have been following the operations closely, but have not yet shown any signs of nervousness or of troop movement.

Officers in the Northern Command have expressed satisfaction with the operations carried out. A senior source in the Northern Command said: So far, the troops have been operating according to the plan and timetable proposed to the General Staff by the Northern Command.

In an interim recap of the operation, officers in the Northern Command said that the IDF operation has attained its objectives without having sustained any casualties among the IDF and South Lebanese Army troops and the local population.

The same sources explained that the objectives had been limited to searching for terrorists, terrorist infrastructures that might have been built, and weapons.

The senior sources nevertheless pointed out that they do not expect this operation to bring absolute calm, but noted that the IDF must prove that it can operate wherever it wants, with the number of troops it wants, and whenever it decides. We believe, senior officers noted, that this operation attained the objectives we set out to achieve. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 4 May adds that "a senior officer in the Northern Command made it plain last night that the operation would end very soon and the troops would return home."]

Rabin Remarks After Tour

TA0305165488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 3 May 88

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Arye Gus following the minister's return from a tour of Lebanon on 3 May—place not given, recorded]

[Text] [Gus] You have just returned from a visit to the area in southern Lebanon in which the IDF is carrying out its operation. What is happening there?

[Rabin] As will be recalled, our policy in Lebanon was set in January 1985 and was implemented by the IDF approximately 3 years ago. The main points of this policy involved an IDF redeployment along the international border, the maintenance of a security zone controlled by the South Lebanese Army [SLA] with IDF assistance, and the reservation of our freedom of action to strike at all terrorist objectives in Lebanon whenever we see fit.

We operate within the confines of this policy. In view of the increased activity on the eastern sector, the IDF is carrying out searches in the security zone and its fringes a bit north of it to signal effectively to the inhabitants of these areas that they must not aid the terrorists.

Another purpose is to comb the area and locate possible terrorist hide-outs to provide a greater sense of security to the security strip and our northern border.

[Gus] Is there no danger that we might clash with the Syrians?

[Rabin] No. The distance between the areas where our forces can be found now and the areas in which Syrian troops are deployed is a safety zone consisting of dozens of kilometers.

[Gus] Sir, is there no intention of expanding the security strip?

[Rabin] No, right now we do not need to expand the security strip.

[Gus] How long do you think the IDF activity will last?

[Rabin] A short time, although I would hesitate to define it precisely. Furthermore, let me add that whenever we deem fit, within the framework of our security policy regarding terrorism from Lebanon, we will undertake to initiate activity on a limited scope and for a short period of time.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 3 May carries a report on an interview with Defense Minister Rabin in which he says:

"We are not talking about terrorist hide-outs, whether they are in the security strip or along its northern boundaries. The squads that attempted infiltrations and were eliminated, including those that cost us lives—and this still hurts even now—were all terrorists who came from areas more distant from our border. It is inconceivable that the local inhabitants were unaware of their intentions. Perhaps, here and there, the terrorists even met with collaborators. Therefore, the purpose of our operation is not to eliminate terrorist hide-outs, but to provide a warning, and punish the various elements residing in the security zone and north of it for assisting the terrorists, or for failing to make sure that we are made aware of the very presence of terrorists near their villages."]

Shamir on Possible Syrian Move

TA0305170488 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 May 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Salman al-Tawil during a tour of Bet She'an on 3 May—videotaped in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Tawil] Mr Shamir, the IDF is searching an area controlled by terrorist organizations who operate under the aegis of Syria. It is reaching places that are close to Syrian outposts.

Is there no fear that the Syrians will react, thereby leading to a military escalation in the area?

[Shamir] We are fighting and operating against terrorist organizations regardless of whether or not they operate under anyone's auspices.

[Al-Tawil] Still, is there no danger that the Syrians might react?

[Shamir] I presume everything was taken into consideration.

[Al-Tawil] Did Israel transmit any message to the Syrians to that effect?

[Shamir] I do not know anything about it.

[Al-Tawil] Mr Shamir, is there any connection between the meeting between 'Arafat and Syrian President al-Asad and our fear of increased cooperation between them on the one hand, and this operation on the other hand?

[Shamir] The two are unrelated. This operation is the result of the wave of attempts by terrorist squads to penetrate this region. [passage omitted]

[Al-Tawil] Mr Shamir, in the past Israel engaged in operations on a broader scope. These include the Peace for Galilee Operation and the Litani Operation. Yet these did not result in quiet in the north or the destruction of the terrorist infrastructure. In light of this, what is the effectiveness of the current operation?

[Shamir] The operations you named brought in their wake very significant results. Terrorist infrastructures were destroyed, terrorists were removed from that area, and quiet in the Galilee was secured.

Although there are occasional penetration attempts, which normally fail, the situation prior to these operations against the terrorists cannot be compared to the present case.

Rabin on Security Objectives

TA0405052688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] We have no desire whatsoever to be policeman of Lebanon or to establish a new order there. Our only wish is to guarantee peace for the Galilee, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said last night.

Mr Rabin was addressing a convention of the Labor Party Young Guard in Bet Shemesh, and our correspondent Razi Barqay heard his remarks:

[Begin recording] [Barqay] The defense minister sought to emphasize the difference between this entry into Lebanon and that of June 1982. I do not intend to tell you that the land will be quiet for 40 years, Yitzhaq Rabin said.

[Rabin] I have never promised that not even one Katyusha will fall again or that there will be no terrorist infiltration attempts. I have never promised that because 3 years of war in Lebanon, from June 1982 to June 1985, did not eradicate terrorism from Lebanon. All the talk about a war that will eliminate terrorism from Lebanon once and for all has proved absolutely useless.

[Barqay] The objective of the operation is limited, being designed to keep the border as calm as possible. Anything beyond that is not worth endangering the life of even one IDF soldier. The objective of the operation is security, Rabin said.

[Rabin] The IDF is being used only to guarantee peace for the settlements and inhabitants of the Galilee. It's as simple and clear as that. This is not a military intervention to make us the policeman of Lebanon, meddle with its internal affairs, or try to influence who will and who will not be in power in this or another part of Lebanon.

I believe there is a difference and I am happy that there is wide national consensus about it today. This difference was brought about by the fact that we joined the current government, the national unity government.

[Barqay] We asked the defense minister about the guidelines issued by the political level to the army commanders and about the security objective he wants to attain.

[Rabin] First, to signal to the inhabitants of the security zone and north of it that any assistance to the terrorists entails numerous serious dangers for them; second, to go through the area, inspect, and check for arms caches in caves and to feel that we know what is happening there and are in control of the situation.

[Barqay] In other words, this is a search and warning operation at the end of which all the IDF troops will come back home?

[Rabin] Exactly so.

[Barqay] When is the IDF coming back home?

[Rabin] I will not say that.

[Barqay] Is it a matter of hours or days?

[Rabin] It will not take long.

[Barqay] Mr Rabin, did we inform the United States before we started this operation?

[Rabin] No.

[Barqay] Do you think there was no need to inform it?

[Rabin] There was no need. In my opinion, this operation falls within the parameters of current defense policy. Israel is responsible for this policy, and it is our responsibility to carry it out.

[Barqay] Has a message been relayed to the Syrians that we do not want to confront them?

[Rabin] No messages whatsoever have been relayed. We are not operating in an area that is even close to them. There is a distance of dozens of kilometers between the area where we are operating and the region where the Syrian troops are deployed in Al-Biqa'. [end recording]

Rabin Briefs Knesset 4 May

TA0405100688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 4 May 88

[Report from the Knesset by Natan Gutman—live]

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has just stepped down from the Knesset rostrum, and here is what he said about Lebanon:

There were no military confrontations yesterday, but fighting began this morning in a certain area with one of the terrorist organizations. I fervently hope this fighting will end shortly.

Rabin added that within 48 hours at the latest Israel hopes to end the operation and bring the troops back home. Based on what I have just said, Rabin noted, I hope we will restore calm between us and our neighbors. If the terrorist organizations step up their activities against Israel, however, we will take action to thwart their wicked intentions and to restore calm.

The defense minister detailed the reasons that led the IDF to go into southern Lebanon once again. He said that the IDF's temporary action in the security zone and its periphery is meant to be limited and is designed to make sure that the eastern sector of the security zone really is a security zone and that its inhabitants do not abet the terrorist organizations. Preventing the bases of the terrorist organizations from remaining in the security zone is another goal. Rabin stressed once again that Israel's action is limited in time and scope.

These were the remarks made from the Knesset rostrum by the defense minister, who added that fighting began this morning in a certain area with one of the terrorist organizations.

At this time, Knesset Member Me'ir Kohen-Avidov is delivering his speech. He will be followed by speakers of other parties who will address themselves to the no-confidence motions submitted on the question of Lebanon and on the situation in the territories.

IDF Spokesman on Maydun Battles

TA0405111088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 4 May 88

[Interview with Brigadier General Efrayim Lapid, IDF spokesman, by 'Adi Talmor—live in the studio]

[Text] [Talmor] Reports from Lebanon speak about battles in Maydun, a village located only 5 km from Syrian forward positions. The REUTER correspondent has even reported that the IDF has taken over the village. What can you tell us about it?

[Lapid] For 2 days now we have been exposed to reports by U.S. and Lebanese sources about the IDF's activities. It is not customary for the IDF to issue authoritative information in the midst of an operation.

We found it necessary to issue an interim report in view of the NBC item 2 nights ago which gave the impression that this was a wide-ranging operation, both in terms of the number of troops taking part in it and its duration.

I am convinced that Israel's citizens are sufficiently patient and can wait until we issue an authoritative communique.

This morning in the Knesset the defense minister said that IDF soldiers are currently fighting terrorists in an area outside the security zone. When this operation is over we will issue an authoritative communique about what happened there.

[Talmor] It was believed last night that the operation would apparently end this evening, whereas the defense minister said that it will last at least another 48 hours. Do you share this assessment about the duration of the operation?

[Lapid] The defense minister says exactly what has been decided by the State of Israel. Of course, the duration of the operation will confirm this decision.

[Talmor] Do you want to add anything concerning the operation?

[Lapid] For all intents and purposes, this is a military operation being carried out in the framework of our routine security activities in southern Lebanon aimed at preventing terrorist infiltrations, preventing terrorists from gaining a foothold in the area, and to deliver a clear message to the local population not to collaborate with those elements in southern Lebanon who help the various terrorist organizations in their operations against us.

Peres Supports Rabin Estimate

TA0405125388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres also believes the IDF operation in southern Lebanon will last another 48 hours. Earlier, a similar assessment was made in the Knesset by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Shim'on Peres commented on Rabin's remarks by saying: All those who know Rabin realize that the defense minister will honor his statements.

Our correspondent in the south, Shim'on Elqabetz, brings excerpts of Shim'on Peres' remarks:

[Begin recording] [Peres] The goal is indeed to carry out a preemptive operation and comb the area. The need for this arose following the increase felt recently in the attempts to penetrate into Israel.

[Elqabetz] Is there no fear that our stay in Lebanon would extend beyond the 48 hours mentioned by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin?

[Peres] No, there is no room for such fear. [end recording]

1,500 Pro-Syrian Terrorists Operate in Al-Biqa'

TA0305161688 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 May 88 p 1

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Text] The Al-Biqa' region of Lebanon, the strip of land sandwiched between the Al-Shuf Mountains to the west and the Hermon ridge to the east, is strewn with Palestinian bases belonging to pro-Syrian organizations.

These were the points of origin for the squad belonging to Nayif Hawatimah's organization which killed the Giv'ati Brigade's battalion commander and scout last week.

The Al-Biqa' region is home for some 1,500 Palestinian terrorists. They belong to the Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] faction of Fatah, the Al-Sa'iqah Organization—which is in fact a Palestinian unit in the Syrian Army—George Habash's PFLP, Nayif Hawatimah's DFLP, as well as other smaller organizations: the Arab Struggle Front [Hazit Hama'avaq Ha'arvi], and the Palestine Liberation Front.

These organizations operate out of training camps supervised by the Syrian Army, while the terrorists' families usually reside in the Palestinian refugee camps in Damascus.

The Palestinian organizations in the Al-Biqa' area are also assisted by the inhabitants of villages adjacent to the Israeli border, in what is known as "Fatahland."

PLO Pilots Training With Iraqi Air Force

TA0305135388 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 May 88 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] PLO cadets train in the Iraqi Air Force flight school alongside the regular Iraqi cadets. This is part of the ongoing PLO efforts to set up its own airborne units.

The PLO has several cargo aircraft in hangars in various locations far from Israel, such as the YAR. PLO fighters are on the regular rosters of various Arab air forces and some of them are even fighter pilots.

The PLO is not the sole organization trying to build an infrastructure for an air force, but its efforts are the most intense and it invests far greater resources to attain this goal than any other Palestinian organization.

Participation in the Iraqi Air Force flight school is important for the PLO because this is being done as the Gulf war is continuing. The Iraqi Air Force plays a significant role in this war and has recently launched various long-range and complex bombing sorties.

The request that Iraq train PLO pilots was made within the framework of the pan-Arab consensus regarding support for Iraq in the Gulf war. The possibility should not be dismissed that PLO pilots graduating from cadet school might remain on the Iraqi Air Force roster and serve among its ranks in the war against Iran.

Ben-Aharon Submits 2 Tabah Proposals to Egypt

TA0305151588 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 May 88 pp 1, 4

[Report by Dalya Shehori]

[Excerpt] Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the prime minister's office, yesterday summoned Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni to his office and asked him to relay to his government two proposals on Tabah.

According to the first, Israel will accept Egyptian sovereignty over Tabah in return for preserving the existing status quo in terms of the ownership and administration of the installations.

The second proposal suggests that Israel and Egypt maintain direct contacts over a compromise and forgo the U.S. mediation efforts carried out by State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer.

Ben-Aharon's proposal was raised against the backdrop of his refusal to accept the compromise worked out by Abraham Sofaer after deliberations in Israel and Egypt.

According to the U.S. compromise proposal, Egypt will gain sovereignty over Tabah, while the facilities in the area (The Aviya Sonesta Hotel and the Rafi Nelson resort) will be owned jointly by Egypt, which will hold 51 percent of the shares, and Israel, which will hold the remaining 49 percent of the shares. The facilities will be run by Israel.

According to knowledgeable sources, the U.S. compromise proposal, which seems to be rather unfavorable to Israel, is actually the best offer for Israel, considering the legal situation.

If Israel should prefer the arbiter's decision, the chances, in the opinion of jurists, are that it would lose everything and Tabah would be handed over to Egypt together with the hotel and the holiday resort.

It has been learned that Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, who had handled the Tabah issue previously while acting as Foreign Ministry legal adviser, is aware of Israel's legal situation and is therefore inclined to accept Sofaer's compromise proposal.

It seems that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir also supports Rubinstein's view. Ben-Aharon, on the other hand, apparently believes that in the time that still remains for reaching a compromise, Israel should try to raise suggestions that would increase its hold over Tabah. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 3 May carries a report on pages one and seven, adding: "Yesterday, the prime minister's office expressed its dismay over the fact that Sofaer had voiced his opinion in public, putting the onus for the outcome of the compromise on Israel. In view of Sofaer's remarks, which Egypt in fact regards as arbitration, there will apparently be no other alternative but to reach a compromise."]

Shamir: Alignment Backs Egypt

TA0305180288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir accuses the Alignment ministers of hurrying to support the Egyptian position on the Tabah issue instead of thoroughly examining Israel's alternatives.

Shamir says the Egyptians are very concerned about the decision of the arbitrator. The prime minister also says that so far no substantial compromise proposal has been submitted to him. Yitzhaq Shamir was the guest of the town of Bet She'an today. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht spoke with him there:

[Begin recording] [Hecht] The prime minister asks that in the midst of the present argument over Tabah we not forget the opening positions. Yitzhaq Shamir recalls that he was the one who was firmly in favor of compromise.

At that time the Egyptians firmly demanded arbitration and the Alignment ministers hurried to support the Egyptians.

[Shamir] The Egyptians at present appear concerned about the decision of the arbitrator, and they now tend more toward a compromise effort. Following the Egyptians in this tendency are those who supported them in the past in their demand for arbitration.

Now, all of a sudden, all the devotees of arbitration have become devotees of compromise. I am not against a compromise. An agreed upon compromise is always preferable to any ruling by outside elements.

We must, therefore, see whether there is a compromise proposal that can be acceptable to us and the Egyptians—we will certainly be happy about it. We must discuss it, however, and see whether there is such a proposal and then decide accordingly.

[Hecht] Mr Prime Minister, do you accept the U.S. proposal, the main point of which is Egyptian sovereignty over Tabah together with a de facto control by Israel?

[Shamir] All the things which have been published are not accurate. Sovereignty and control are abstract terms which are made up of many arrangements in the area itself. We must examine each thing and see how it will find its expression in the field and decide accordingly. [end recording]

Leaders Urge Further Contacts

TA0405075088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] In a consultation held this morning at the prime minister's office in Jerusalem, Ministers Shamir, Peres, and Rabin decided to pursue the conciliation efforts on the Tabah issue.

Consequently, Israel will ask Abraham Sofaer, the U.S. State Department legal adviser, to go on with the contacts. To this end, direct meetings may be held between Israeli and Egyptian representatives.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that the two countries will apparently approach the arbiters in Geneva and ask them to postpone the conclusion of the arbitration for the time being.

Claim of Israelis Held in Egypt 'Unfounded'

TA0305160488 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 May 88 p A2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar]

[Text] Egyptian police spent all day yesterday looking for six Israelis who were reportedly apprehended at the Rafah border crossing point on suspicion of trying to use counterfeit dollars.

Last night Egyptian police reported to the Israeli Embassy in Cairo that they know nothing about the case and that an investigation into the matter indicates that no such incident had occurred.

The Israeli Embassy in Cairo reported to the Foreign Ministry that the report on the detention was unfounded and asked that Israel make further inquiries into the reliability of the report.

Agreement With Italy on Ships' 'Light Arms'

TA0305143888 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 May 88 p 3

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Italy and Israel have reached an agreement whereby Israeli flag-bearing vessels may continue to carry light arms for protection. The details of the agreement were worked out in talks conducted in Rome by Foreign Ministry officials and their Italian counterparts.

According to the agreement, prior to their departure for Italian ports, the Israeli vessels will declare the weapons carried on board for self-defense. The Italian security bodies will not confiscate those weapons.

At the same time, the Italian authorities have not yet returned weapons confiscated recently from five Israeli flag-bearing ships. It seems that in the end these weapons will be returned to Israel.

The Italian security authorities also confiscated arms found on board a Chinese vessel.

Peres Remarks on Lack of Palestinian Leadership

TA0305174088 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 May 88

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by unidentified correspondent on 3 May, place not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] With your permission, sir, let me ask you one more question regarding the territories. We are now into the 5th month of the irreversible situation in the territories which has seen continuing unrest.

Initially, people said that perhaps these events will breed a leadership with which it will be possible to conduct a dialogue. Is the Foreign Ministry engaged in some type of dialogue with the inhabitants of the territories to calm the situation down? Or have you taken some action to this effect yourself?

[Peres] We are trying to bring about calm, but I do not think there is a leadership or a general design for these incidents. This is one of the problems.

[Correspondent] Are people to hold talks with not sought?

[Peres] The problem is not one of searching for them, the problem is whether or not a leadership having a political plan with whom it would be possible to sit down and discuss matters with exists.

The inhabitants constantly indicate the PLO abroad [as the leader], and you must be well aware of our position toward the PLO abroad.

Shipments Marked 'PLO—Gaza' Ordered Returned

TA0305161888 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 May 88 p A1

[Report by Yehoshu'a Bitzur]

[Text] Transportation Minister Hayim Corfu has instructed that containers that arrived at Ashdod port on board Greek and Cypriot ships and addressed to "PLO—Gaza" be returned to their countries.

The containers were shipped from Greece and Cyprus by an Iraqi company. One consignment came from Iraq, another from Egypt, and the third from the Soviet Union. They contained medical equipment and foodstuffs.

Minister Corfu instructed that they be returned to their countries of origin because of the marking designating the loads' destination.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Balatah Youth Killed 3 May

TA0305165788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] A 23-year old youth was killed in the Balatah refugee camp this evening during a violent riot. The IDF imposed curfew on the camp.

Details of 3 May Incidents

TA0405114688 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 May 88 pp 1, 6

[Report by Nadav Shragay and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Military sources yesterday denied reports that an 80-year-old resident of the 'Ayn Bayt 'Al Ma' refugee camp near Hebron died 2 days ago after being wounded by IDF fire. According to the military sources, they were told by the old man's family that he died of a heart attack.

Arab sources, on the other hand, insist on their version. They claim that the old man, Muhammad Husayn al-Muhi, was standing in the doorway of his house when IDF soldiers, who were pursuing a youth, shot in his direction.

The shots hit the old man. Al-Ittihad Hospital further reported that the man died after sustaining leg wounds from three bullets, two bullets in his right leg and one in his left. [passage omitted]

Several Civilian Administration customs employees were attacked in Al-Birah yesterday. Their car was set on fire and they fled from the scene. It was later reported that a young Arab with gunshot wounds was brought to a nearby hospital. The IDF is examining the connection between the two incidents.

Three Israeli cars were attacked yesterday near Romano House in Hebron. Stones were hurled at a house in Hirbat al-Rumaydah and at soldiers who were standing next to Romano House.

A restaurant was set on fire near the Al-Qarantal Monastery in Jericho, presumably after the opening hours imposed on businesses by the leaders of the uprising were disobeyed.

In another incident, a Molotov cocktail was thrown at a stall near East Jerusalem's Damascus Gate. This incident is also being investigated in connection with disobedience of the commercial strike organizers' instructions. [passage omitted]

Yesterday morning's riots in the Gaza Strip began simultaneously in several locations, including schools. Arab sources claimed yesterday that six people were hospitalized after inhaling tear gas.

They further said that in the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp a water main was severed by an IDF vehicle and that camp residents are consequently without water.

The IDF erected a barrier in Dayr al-Balah to prevent nonresidents from entering the location. [passage omitted]

IDF authorities have uncovered an attempt to smuggle dozens of letters out of the Ansar-3 detention facility in Qezi'ot. [passage omitted]

'Partial Response' to PLO Call

TA0405102588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 May 88

[Report by 'Eran Ben-Porat]

[Text] There were several disturbances in Judaea and Samaria today. Early this morning, a bus arriving in Hebron to pick up workers was set on fire near the town's southern outskirts. The bus was totally burned but nobody was hurt.

There were several disturbances in the Tulkarm District this morning, including tire burning and stone throwing.

Commerce is irregular in most areas and almost all shops are closed. Nevertheless, most workers left for work in Israel. Government offices and municipalities are operating normally today.

There are some disruptions in public transportation and buses are rare in the districts of Tulkarm, Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Janin. This actually represents a partial response to the call of PLO instigators to stage a general commercial strike today, which they call a day for construction and tilling the soil.

90 Policemen Return to Work

TA0405103988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 May 88

[Report by 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Text] Quiet prevails in the Gaza Strip today, except for isolated cases of stones being thrown at Israeli vehicles. The security forces dispersed the perpetrators and there was no report about damages or casualties.

The general strike affecting commerce and services which started yesterday continues. The preventive curfew imposed on the refugee camps has been lifted, and the local population is free to go about its own business today. Compared to normal days, an average number of workers from the area left for work in Israel today.

It has been learned that about 90 local policemen and officers, out of 450 who quit their jobs last month, have returned to work for the Gaza District Police.

4 Injured in 4 May Incidents

TA0405141588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Four residents of the territories were injured today as demonstrations were being dispersed. Two of them were hurt in Khan Yunus, one in Silwad, near Ramallah, and the fourth in the market in Nabulus.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a local female who tried to throw a knife at a soldier on patrol sustained head injuries from a rubber bullet. There were also riots in Al-Shati' and Jabalyah in the Gaza Strip. The IDF dispersed the demonstrators.

AL-FAJR Editor Detained

TA0305145288 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 May 88 p 4

[Excerpts] In Al-Birah and Qabatiyah two residents were wounded when an IDF force dispersed riots in the area. In Ramallah a local man was wounded when he tried to attack an IDF soldier. [passage omitted]

Thirty Arab policemen from the Gaza Strip returned to work in the local police stations yesterday after having resigned approximately 2 months ago at the command of the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising. The number of policemen who have returned to work now stands at 70.

Officers of the Gaza Subdistrict have expressed their hope that more policemen will return to work thus returning police activity in the Gaza Strip to full manpower.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 3 May in a page 1 report adds: "Near the village of Baytuniya, west of Ramallah, a detention facility for children under 16 who have been arrested for participating in riots and stone throwing is about to be completed."]

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 3 May on page 5 reports: "Hatim 'Abd al-Qadir, a nightshift editor of AL-FAJR, Hanna Sinyurah's newspaper, was detained yesterday."]

Gazans 'Beat Up' Cab Drivers

TA0405111688 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 May 88 p 5

[Report by Eli Tavor and David Regev]

[Excerpts] Gaza Strip residents, particularly residents of Gaza city, have recently adopted a new weapon in attacking IDF soldiers: fireworks. [passage omitted]

Over the past few days, these have been fired at patrols and soldiers, causing some slight burns.

Another Gaza Strip innovation: Youths beat up taxi drivers who take workers to jobs in Israel.

Impersonating laborers leaving for work, they get up early in the morning, stop cabs, and ask to be driven to Israel. They stop the cab after some 200 meters, beat up the driver, smash the car's windshields, and flee.

This is done to intimidate the cab drivers, who are expected to stop driving Arab workers to Israel.

In addition to that, they scatter bent nails, called "ninjas", on roads leaving the Gaza Strip, causing blow-outs in northbound cars.

Arab Party Submits No-Confidence Motion

TA0305125788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] The Arab Democratic Party headed by Knesset Member [MK] al-Wahab Darawshah today submitted a motion of no-confidence in the cabinet over the military operation in Lebanon. MK Darawshah maintains that the operation infringes on Lebanese sovereignty and contravenes international law.

Levi Not To Compete With Shamir in Herut Movement

TA0305130588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] There will be no competition in the Herut Movement in anticipation of the upcoming Knesset elections. The above was announced a short while ago by David Levi, deputy prime minister and construction and housing minister.

He claimed that this was his final decision. Levi said this after his meeting with the two other Herut ministers, Ari'el Sharon and Moshe Arens. An agreement was reached at that meeting on the dates for internal elections in the Herut Movement, and it was decided that the Likud's candidate for prime minister will be elected in mid-June. The entire list will be voted on by mid-July.

Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that the date for the merger with the Liberal Party is still pending and it is not yet clear when the two parties will be united or even whether this will take place before or after the elections.

Labor Party Amends Platform To Placate 'Hawks'

TA0405074888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] A split between Labor Party hawks and doves has been prevented only by an amendment introduced in the party's political document. In a meeting held in Shim'on Peres' office yesterday, it was decided that the party's election program would stress the need for security zones in the West Bank even after a permanent agreement has been attained with Jordan. Our correspondent Razi Barqay has more details:

[Begin recording] The Labor Party's hawks were surprised to find paid ads in the weekend newspapers with the original version of the political document. Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hilel was furious because he had demanded to amend it.

Yesterday's meeting in Shim'on Peres' office gave birth to the slight amendment of one of the clauses. The new version says: Israel will not return to the 1967 borders and will retain unpopulated territories, such as the Jordan Rift Valley, that are vital to its security.

The mention of the settlements in the Jordan Rift Valley is a gain for the hawks, who argue that through it they have ensured that the Labor Party will not withdraw from the Allon Plan and will not give up settlements founded by Alignment governments.

As may be recalled, the political document drafted by Shim'on Peres and endorsed by the Labor ministers speaks of a territorial compromise, of interim arrangements and a permanent agreement, and of a referendum or elections that would allow the public to express its opinion.

Yesterday's meeting was attended by Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres; Secretary 'Uzi Bar'am; Mikha Harish, chairman of the party's political committee; Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hilel; and Nisim Zvili, head of the public relations committee.

The Labor Party Bureau will endorse the new formula and the amendment will be published in the press. Hawks and doves will each be able to read in it what they want.

Doves will emphasize a withdrawal, while hawks will stress that the Jordan River and the settlements in the Jordan Rift Valley are the security border. [end recording]

IDF Lebanon Operation's Effects 'Short-Lived'

TA0405104788 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 May 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Warning and Deterrence"]

[Text] Let us not delude ourselves: The IDF operation, which has been confined to a limited part of the security zone and to some of its periphery, was not intended to solve our acute security problems, and will probably solve nothing in the long run. We are destined to confront these same problems again along the northern border.

From this point of view, one should commend Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who has spoken the truth, avoided creating illusions, was not carried away by excessive assessments, and was careful not to blow the operation's image out of proportion.

If we are to rely on his cautious remarks, the operation does not go beyond the usual policy of searches initiated by the IDF after the establishment of the security zone in south Lebanon and conducted whenever a need arises.

The operation's goal and significance are essentially an attempt to pass on a message of power to the local population and to signal them to refrain from aiding the terrorists, who have been recently attempting to penetrate into Israel at an increasingly frequent rate.

It can be assumed that the population, properly surprised and frightened by the appearance of the armed forces, has understood the warning. But a warning and a deterrence, when directed at people placed between a rock and a hard place, can be rather short-lived.

In any event, with or without cooperation from the local population, the terrorists will return and try again to penetrate Israel's northern settlements.

Power Struggle in Lebanon, IDF Policy Viewed

TA0305173888 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 May 88 p 13

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "The Security Strip Is Being Stretched"]

[Text] The Palestinian assault on the north is not the only important event taking place in southern Lebanon these days. The repeated attempts by Palestinians to introduce hit squads into northern settlements rightfully claim our attention, but recently we have witnessed two other important events.

One is another attack by the Shi'ite Amal organization against the more extremist Shi'ite movement, Hizballah, which seriously impinged on the latter's status in southern Lebanon.

The other event was the visit by Uri Lubrani, Israel's coordinator of activities in Lebanon, to Jazzin, a large Christian settlement located far beyond the northern boundaries of the security zone.

Lubrani made a speech in Jazzin delivering an unequivocal message: Israel will increase its assistance to General Lahd's South Lebanese Army [SLA] even in carrying out operations north of the security strip. These three events are all part of the power struggle in southern Lebanon.

The Palestinian military efforts began after the success scored by Jibril's organization in the hang glider attack, and the outbreak of intifadha [uprising in Arabic] in the territories.

All the Palestinian organizations wanted to prove that they were not sitting back with their arms folded, doing nothing while their brethren in the territories staged a revolt.

The attempts came from all sides, including from the Egyptian border, but the northern border still claimed supremacy. These efforts were manifest in various areas.

The Syrians extended logistic and training assistance to Jibril's organization and Habash's men.

The Palestinians, who were relieved after Amal lifted the siege of the refugee camps, tried to drag Hizballah into launching joint operations against Israel. They also made contact with the Iranian Revolution Guards who had reached as far south as southern Lebanon.

Once the PLO assessed that the intifadha in the territories was losing its momentum, all the Palestinian organizations stepped up their attempts to penetrate Israel. Since the beginning of the year, eight Palestinian squads either actually reached the border fence or were stopped only a short distance away.

They did not enter the Jewish settlements, but more than ever before they successfully proceeded past UNIFIL observation posts directly into the security strip. Although that area is heavily patrolled by the IDF and the SLA, the squads managed to cross the defense fence and in some cases even engaged in combat on Israeli soil.

This was not confined to Mount Hermon, which presents topographical difficulties to infiltration. Similar infiltrations occurred further west, near Kibbutz Ramim, Kibbutz Yiftah, and Kefar Yuval.

In other words, this activity continues even in an area inhabited by Shi'ites. Perhaps Amal and the Palestinians have reached an understanding that if the Palestinians avoid shelling Israel from the Shi'ite villages, the latter will permit them to enter the security zone and proceed from there to Israel.

One characteristic of the latest Palestinian military effort is the ratio in the number of casualties suffered by both sides. Up until the latest infiltrations the Palestinian and Shi'ite fatalities—including those brought about by air force operations—far exceeded the Israeli losses.

But if we compare the number of casualties incurred in the operations of the 8 squads mentioned above, we will find out that while 17 Palestinians were killed in these penetration attempts, Israel lost 5 people. This is a bad proportion from Israel's point of view, certainly in comparison to previous tolls.

This does not prove that the security strip and the defense fence along the border are worthless, but it does mean that there exists a certain tactical loophole requiring examination by the Northern Command. The IDF must overcome it before the terrorists enter a settlement.

The second attack which Israel has been following closely was that of Amal on Hizballah. At this stage, Hizballah has lost its military strongholds in southern Lebanon.

This is a serious blow, but not the end of the struggle, especially since Hizballah still holds on to its positions in Al-Biqa' and the southern outskirts of Beirut.

The collision occurred as Hizballah was in the midst of a process of introducing policy changes with respect to its offensive approach toward Israel. Whereas in the past it was satisfied with staging attacks against the IDF in the security zone, there are now increasing signs that Hizballah is prepared to allow its men to cooperate with the Palestinians in infiltrating Israel or shelling it from Lebanese territory.

The confrontation between these two entities is not directly connected to Israel but its outcome might affect security in southern Lebanon. The clashes are occurring there at a time when Shi'ite clergymen are calling upon the inhabitants of the security strip to emulate the Palestinians in the territories and stage anti-Israeli demonstrations.

The tension in the south between these two organizations began after the kidnapping of the American Colonel Higgins. In early April a serious incident occurred after Hizballah attacked an Amal roadblock near Al-Nabatiyah. Fighting spread to the villages and in the course of the clashes dozens of Hizballah men were apprehended and their arms confiscated from their caches. Amal took over control of religious institutions in the south and, what is more important, demanded that Hizballah's Iranian instructors leave the area.

Amal is fighting in the security zone, but this is an organization whose approach is pragmatic and whose policy does not call for the shelling of Israeli settlements.

Although the organization is affiliated with Syria, Israel prefers to see it remove Hizballah and its Iranian supporters from southern Lebanon.

Against this backdrop, the visit by Uri Lubrani to Jazzin is fascinating. It seems to me that this was the first public visit by a senior Israeli official to a location outside the security zone in Lebanon since the war.

The policy toward Jazzin is that Israel will not be involved in local activity. Lahd wants to expand his activity in the region and obtain support for maintaining larger forces there.

The importance of the Jazzin area stems from its location in an important intersection separating Al-Biqa' from the south and the Al-Shuf region from the Hermon mountain ridge.

Still, this is not sufficient grounds for Israeli activity in Jazzin. We must not let ourselves be sucked into Lebanon once again. Let us hope Lubrani's visit to Jazzin is no indication of such a trend.

'Abbas To Succeed Al-Wazir on Joint Committee

JN040650 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 May 88 p 24

[Text] Baghdad—The PLO Executive Committee, which ended its meetings in the Iraqi capital, has decided that Dr Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin, will assume the responsibility of the Palestinian side to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for bolstering steadfastness.

He will succeed martyr Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] who assumed this responsibility before his martyrdom.

According to informed Palestinian sources, a PLO delegation is expected to arrive Amman within the next 2 days to prepare for the visit which Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] plans to pay to Amman at the invitation of His Majesty King Husayn to stress the importance of the special, distinguished relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and in light of the high appreciation enjoyed by Jordan's declared position in various Palestinian circles.

AL-RA'Y Views Israeli 'Aggression' in Lebanon

JN040822 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 May 88 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "A New Zionist Aggression"]

[Text] The new Zionist aggression against Lebanon did not surprise anyone. As a result of the continued aggression against and occupation of parts of Lebanese territory, and in light of the uprising's 6-month duration, it is only natural for the enemy to try to divert attention from the uprising and restore the confidence of the Zionist soldier and the Zionist military establishment, which has failed to achieve its goals in Lebanon and to end the uprising.

The Zionist aggression against Lebanon yesterday was not only aimed at shelling residential areas, blocking roads, arresting hundreds of people, and searching for the bases and leaders of the Lebanese national resistance, but it also urged Lebanese citizens to set up local administrations to cooperate with the enemy and assist its plan to strike at Lebanon's unity and disrupt its territory and population.

This was the goal of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon 6 years ago. However, that invasion ended in a military defeat for the enemy forces—a defeat which has caused deep negative feelings within the Zionist society.

The new Zionist aggression against fraternal Lebanon provides further evidence of the region's need for the just peace and stability to which our nation aspires. Such stability and peace can only be achieved if the international community and its big powers, particularly the United States, apply pressure on the Zionist enemy and force it to accept international values, principles, and charters.

The international conference called for by Jordan is the only way, as affirmed by His Majesty King Husayn, to reach a settlement of the Palestine question, the core of the Middle East problem, or the Lebanese crisis, one of the offshoots of that problem.

The enemy commits more crimes. Therefore, it is not enough for the world to denounce the enemy's hostile and expansionist policies at a time when Washington uses the veto against any resolution condemning and denouncing Zionist terrorism.

The world is required to shoulder its moral and humanitarian responsibilities toward our region which for 40 years has been facing a racist and expansionist aggression against its territories, inhabitants, and aspirations for peace, stability, progress, and construction.

Invasion Satisfies Israeli Generals' 'Fantasies'

JN040644 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 May 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Moses Would Have Thought Otherwise"]

[Text] The Israeli attack into south Lebanon against the Palestinian and Lebanese national resistance would be quite funny, were it not for the fact that countries are being invaded and people are being killed.

We use the word funny because it should be obvious to Israel, and to its American armourers and financiers, that the concept of security stemming from the effervescence of one's armed forces is rather untenable, given the very persistent uprising of the Palestinians living under direct Israeli military occupation. If the Israelis cannot bring order to the children of Palestine, how can they expect to pacify an area such as south Lebanon?

The answer, of course, is that they cannot. The Israeli invasion of south Lebanon will come and go in the same manner as scores of other such invasions have come and gone.

The security of Israel will not be enhanced; the will of the Palestinians and the Lebanese to be free will only be fortified; the ability of the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance to strike into targets in Israel will remain unchanged.

The only thing that will be achieved is that the fantasies of Israeli generals will be satisfied for a brief moment, and militaristic dreamers in Israel will stretch out their make-believe world in which armed force is the answer to all problems.

One suspects that Moses would have thought otherwise, and that thoughtful Jews all over the world would start questioning the rationality and efficacy of Israel's resort to arms every time it was confronted with a political or a human dilemma.

The Palestinian and Lebanese attacks against Israel stem from a denial of political rights by Israel; the armed attacks against Israel will cease when their underlying cause has been treated.

That cause is political, not military. When the Palestinians exercise their national right of self-determination, and when the Lebanese live as free people in their own country, Israel will enjoy genuine security.

Military invasions by Israel would only exacerbate the underlying causes of the violence which Israel complains of, and claims to treat with its invasions. If people were not being killed and countries invaded, this would all be rather funny.

Israeli Incursion Continues; Fighting Erupts

Israeli Overflights, Flares

NC0305201488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 May 88

Our correspondent in the south has reported that Israeli warplanes have been flying over the central and western sectors since 2030. The Israeli jets are dropping flares.

IDF-SLA Forces Attack Maydun

NC0405063588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Israeli forces and the agent Lahd militia at 0200 today began a concentrated artillery shelling of the town of Maydun, after which they advanced toward the town supported by Israeli helicopters and fighter aircraft.

The ensuing confrontation between the occupiers on the one hand and the resistance men and inhabitants of the town on the other has so far prevented the Israeli forces and Lahd groups from entering the town.

Further on Fighting in Maydun

NC0405103788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Resistance fighters continue to confront the aggressive Israeli forces in the village of Maydun. In the meantime, towns and villages in Al-Biqa', and particularly Mashgharah, Suhmur, and Yuhmur, are coming under violent artillery bombardment. Israeli helicopters are flying over the area and taking part in a the offensive.

The violent Israeli barrage has been concentrated on western Al-Biqa' villages and (Al-Qir'awn Dam) since 0430.

Meanwhile, the Israeli forces have detained the REUTER correspondent in western Al-Biqa'.

The enemy fired approximately 1,000 shells at Zillaya and [placename indistinct].

UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel has disclosed that a number of Katyushas fell on Marj 'Uyun and Balat. A Katyusha also hit a Norwegian UNIFIL contingent, but did not cause any casualties.

In an earlier development, the Israeli sent 150 soldiers and a large number of vehicles during the night to reinforce their positions in Tallat 'Ali al-Tahir and Kafr Tibnit.

Regarding the Rashayya al-Wadi axis, the Israeli forces completed their withdrawal from the villages of 'Ayn 'Ata, Mimas al-Kafr, Al-Khalwah, and 'Ayn Tanta at 1100 today.

They have withdrawn to their positions in Zaghlah and 'Ayn Qinya north of Hasbayya. They also put up an earthen barrier on the Zaghlah-Mimas Road.

IDF Within 5km of Syrians

NC0405065588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0622 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] In an urgent dispatch this morning, REUTER quotes security sources in Rashayya as saying that Israeli forces and South Lebanese Army units have advanced under artillery cover toward Maydun and 'Ayn al-Tinah, two villages in Al-Biqa' that are 5 km from Syrian Army positions in Mashgharah.

REUTER reports that shells were fired at the rate of 20 per minute, falling in Maydun, 'Ayn al-Tinah, and several adjacent villages. Helicopters covered the advance of the joint force, which has tank and armored vehicle support. The source says that the force did not encounter any resistance.

Al-'Urqubli Searches Continue

NC0405073288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] According to reports from western Al-Biqa', the Israeli enemy forces are continuing their incursion into the villages of the region. These forces have arrived at the outskirts of 'Ayn al-Tinah, and violent battles are now raging between resistance fighters and these attacking forces. At the same time, the villages in the area, particularly Mashgharah and its environs, are coming under heavy Israeli bombardment.

Meanwhile, in the Al-'Urqub area, enemy forces are continuing their storming operations and campaign of arrests, particularly in Kafr Shuba, Kafr Hamam, and Al-Hibbariyah.

The UN Forces Command has lodged a protest with the Israeli Government over the operation, and have demanded the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from the areas they have entered.

Amal Statement on Fighting

NC0405082888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] The scope of the continuing Israeli act of aggression that began yesterday has expanded. New villages in western Al-Biqa' are now being subjected to the Israeli attack.

Battles which began near 'Ayn al-Tinah and Maydun last night, are continuing. Resistance fighters and the people of the area are confronting the attacking forces, which are directing a concentrated bombardment on the surrounding villages.

A military source in the Amal Movement has released the following statement: At 2400 last night, Israeli forces advanced toward Maydun and 'Ayn al-Tinah, where the occupation forces and agents tried to advance under a heavy artillery barrage.

Fierce fighting, in which rockets and machineguns were used, raged betwen Amal fighters and the attacking force. The intensity of the clashes eased along the Maydun-'Ayn al-Tinah line at 0800, but the artillery bombardment continued.

However, the clashes intensified at 0900 after the enemy made another attempt to advance. The enemy used various types of machineguns, rockets, and tank fire in the attempt, but failed.

Enemy helicopters supported the attack and searched the region. Two members of the Amal Movement were martyred and three others were wounded in the clashes. The statement notes that the battles are continuing.

Meanwhile, Israeli helicopters flew over the course of the Litani River at 0715 this morning and searched the area.

Details of Maydun Battles

NC0405090988 Paris AFP in English 0859 GMT 5 May 88

[Excerpt] Rashaya, Lebanon, May 4 (AFP)—Israeli troops clashed with Shi'ite militiamen at dawn Wednesday as they moved closer to Syrian lines in southeast Lebanon as part of a major operation to stamp out cross-border infiltration, police said.

The clashes took place three kilometers (two miles) outside the Israeli-held buffer zone near the Shi'ite village of Maydun, 1.5 kilometers (less than one mile) from Syrian lines in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' Valley, police said.

An Israeli armored unit left the buffer zone at dawn and moved north-east under heavy artillery cover targeting Maydun and 'Ayn al-Tinah further north.

The Israeli Army fired 1,150 shells in two hours, said a source at the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Israeli helicopter gunships raked the region with automatic weapons fire as the inhabitants fled, police added.

The troops have encircled Maydun where militiamen from Amal, the pro-Iranian Hizballah and Lebanese leftist fighters were entrenched, correspondents in the region said.

The Amal Movement said two of its fighters were killed in the clashes while three others were wounded.

More Israeli troops meanwhile advanced on 'Ayn al-Tinah, the correspondents added.

A security source in the region said meanwhile that the Israeli Army fired 1,000 shells overnight on targets in southeast Lebanon while reinforcements were dispatched to the area.

About 3,000 Israeli troops, twice the number initially involved in the operation which started late Monday, were taking part in the latest thrust, military sources close to the United Nations said in Jerusalem.

The operation, which first targeted villages in the border zone and the Al-'Urqub district, was also moving west Wednesday closer to the town of Jazzin, a Christian enclave held by the Israeli-financed South Lebanon Army militia. [passage omitted]

IDF-SLA Forces Take Maydun

NC0405092988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Reports coming in from the south and western Al-Biqa' indicate that Israeli and South Lebanese Army [SLA] forces have gained control of the village of Maydun and the surrounding hills, just 5 km from the Syrian lines in Mashgarah.

The reports state that the Israeli forces continued their search operations in the villages of 'Ayn 'Ata, Libbaya, Mimis, and Kufayr, as well as on the slopes of Mount Hermon, and had moved in paratroop reinforcements.

REUTER quotes security sources and eyewitnesses as saying the Israeli and SLA artillery units also have bombarded Mashgarah, a base of the Syrian Special Forces, with heavy guns at the rate of one shell per minute.

Reports speak of an exodus toward safer areas in the north. However, other reports indicate that Israeli forces withdrew from Kafr Shuba, Kafr Hamam, Rashayya al-Fukhkhar, Al-Haqqariyah, and Al-Furaydis last night.

Israeli helicopters are now hovering over the Al-Biqa' area, while military aircraft are flying over Sidon and its environs.

The U.S. NBC television network reports that Israel has informed Syria that the operation is aimed only against Palestinian targets, and that it will not attack the Syrian forces stationed in Lebanon.

The PFLP has warned of the possible expansion of the Israeli military operations to other Lebanese territory, particularly to the Sidon area.

Operation To Continue 24 Hours

NC0405095688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel has said that the Israelis and the South Lebanese Army have fired more than 1,000 shells at targets outside the security zone.

The village of Maydun was a particular target, he stated, adding that this morning UNIFIL personnel saw an exchange of fire between Israeli military aircraft and a number of gunmen, who then fled the area.

Meanwhile, REUTER cites military sources as saying that the Israeli military operation in the south may continue for a further 24 hours.

In another development, a PLO spokesman has announced that the PLO Executive Committee met today under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat to discuss ways of dealing with the grave consequences of the Israeli operation, which is aimed against the Palestinians and Lebanese in the south. He did not elaborate.

Israeli Shelling Continues

NC0405101188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Israeli forces are continuing to shell the villages of Mashgarah and 'Ayn al-Tinah in western Al-Biqa'. The shelling is coupled with search operations by Israeli helicopters.

Reports indicate that the Israeli forces have gained control of Maydun village and the surrounding hills. Meanwhile, Israeli warplanes are now flying over Sidon and its environs.

Israelis Deploy Near Jazzin

NC0405111388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 4 May 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] There are reports that the Israelis withdrew completely from 'Ayn 'Ata at 0900 today and began a heavy bombardment of Lebanese Army positions in (Sad al-Qir'awn), with the support of helicopter gunships.

REUTER cites security sources as saying that the Israelis and the South Lebanese Army have captured Maydun and the surrounding hills. It added that the Israeli forces withdrew from the villages of 'Ayn 'Ata, Libbaya, Kufayr, and Mimas today after arresting six people and confiscating two truckloads of arms.

AFP reports that about 200 Israeli troops have deployed along the road between western Al-Biqa' and Jazzin in an attempt to tighten their grip on the positions held by the fighters confronting the Israeli forces.

Quoting a security source, AFP says that Katyushas were fired at Israeli posts in Marj 'Uyun this morning, some of which struck the UNIFIL Irish contingent's post.

There were no casualties. Sources close to the United Nations have estimated the number of Israeli troops participating in the operation at 3,000. [passage omitted]

Syrian Forces Leave Mashgarah

NC0405114488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] AFP reports that Israeli forces have advanced toward the town of 'Ayn al-Tinah, 1.5 km from Mashgarah, which is considered a base for the Syrian special units.

The advance was preceded by violent Israeli shelling of several villages in western Al-Biqa', including Mashgarah. Security sources have observed that the Syrian forces withdrew from Mashgarah prior to the Israeli shelling, leaving token units behind. Military vehicles carrying Syrian soldiers were seen heding in the direction of Shtawrah and central Al-Biqa'.

Syria Threatens To Fight

NC0405130588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 May 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A source closely associated with the Syrians has said that no decision has been made about confronting the Israelis at this stage, but the situation will change if the Israelis capture 'Ayn al-Tinah or advance toward Mashgarah.

Meanwhile, a Syrian source in Al-Biqa' has said that Syria is closely monitoring the Israeli moves, adding: We will fight them if they advance. [passage omitted]

30 Israelis Killed in Maydun

NC0405131588 Paris AFP in English 1228 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Rashayya, Lebanon, May 4 (AFP)—Israeli troops clashed with Shi'ite militiamen Wednesday as they moved closer to Syrian lines in southeast Lebanon as part of a major operation to stamp out cross-border infiltration, police said. [passage omitted]

Police said 3,000 Israeli troops were currently engaged in routing infiltrators from bases in the area—twice the original number that launched the operation late Monday. [passage omitted]

A spokesman for the pro-Iranian Hizballah's paramilitary Islamic resistance movement said they had sustained 10 casualties, while the group's radio Voice of Islam claimed that 30 Israeli soldiers were killed in Maydun.

The spokesman said that shells also fell on the nearby villages of Mashgarah and Yuhmur as Israeli Cobra helicopter gunships and fighter-bombers circled over the embattled area.

Correspondents said 50 homes were damaged in the shelling of 'Ayn al-Tinah.

Hizballah added that Lebanese leftist fighters deployed northeast of Mashgarah fired Soviet-made multiple rocket launchers at Israeli troop positions.

Hundreds of civilians fled the embattled area and were seen sitting in groups along a road moving north to the Syrian-controlled city of Shtawrah. [passage omitted]

3,000 IDF Reinforcements Sent

NC0405140388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 May 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] A violent confrontation has taken place in the town of Maydun, and the artillery of Amal and the Lebanese Army's 1st Brigade is retaliating by directing concentrated shellfire at the sources of the Israeli shelling, preventing the enemy from advancing.

The Amal source said that two Amal Movement members were martyred and four others wounded during this confrontation in Maydun. This is in addition to other fighters and civilians who have been martyred.

Meanwhile, AFP has reported that the Zionist enemy has dispatched to the south large reinforcements estimated at 3,000 soldiers.

10 Resistance Casualties

NC0405143688 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] AFP has cited a spokesman from the Islamic resistance as saying that fierce resistance against the occupation forces in the Maydun and 'Ayn al-Tinah areas is continuing, with resistance fighters using RPG's and strella rockets. The spokesman said that 10 Islamic resistance fighters were martyred or wounded.

AFP also cited a Lebanese Army officer as saying that an army position was subjected to hostile artillery shelling. One artillery emplacement was destroyed.

The agency added that nationalist party fighters in an area 5 km from Al-Qir'awn Dam shelled the occupation forces' positions with rocket launchers. The AFP correspondent reported that he has seen smoke billowing from the targeted positions.

Syrian Threatens 'Response'

LD0405152788 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 May 88 p 1

[Excerpts] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Agencies—The Zionist enemy forces yesterday continued their siege of southern Lebanese villages covering an area of about 100 sq km on the western slopes of Mount Hermon in the course of their new invasion of these areas under the pretext of countering Palestinian "terrorism." [passage omitted]

In a telephone interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT a high-ranking Syrian official has condemned the new Israeli aggression on Lebanese territory. He said that the Zionist method of aggression carried out on such feeble pretexts as the so-called combing campaign is a condemned act of terrorism.

The Syrian official, who preferred to remain anonymous, added that "any aggression against the areas under the Syrian security umbrella or against positions of the Syrian forces in western Al-Biqa' would meet with a violent response."

Informed sources in Damascus have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the new aggression is aimed, above all, at the Syrian stand and the new alliances charted through President Hafiz al-Asad's meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, one of the first fruits of which has been the escalation of military operations across the Lebanese borders. [passage omitted]

PFLP Member Urges Unity Against 'Aggression'

NC0405105788 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Commenting on the expansion of military operations in the Mashgharah area, Colonel Abu Ahmad Fu'ad, PFLP Political Bureau member, has made the following statement:

The Zionist enemy has been expanding the scope of its operations since this morning, which now extend to the Maydun, 'Ayn al-Tinah, and Mashgharah triangle.

The Zionist enemy is using aircraft and artillery with flagrant U.S. collusion. The purpose of these operations is to raise the Israeli army's morale, which has been shaken by the successful strikes unleashed by the heroes of the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance.

By these operations, the enemy also aims to frustrate the escalating uprising in the occupied land, particularly following the rapprochement between the PLO and Syria.

We warn the forces of the Lebanese nationalist forces and the Palestinian revolution of Zionist treachery against a further expansion of military operations to other Lebanese areas, particularly Sidon.

He also called on the Palestinian revolution and all Lebanese nationalist forces to close ranks and to be ready to confront the aggression.

Fadlallah Calls for Hostage, Prisoner Release

NC0405135088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Hizballah's spiritual guide, has called on the kidnappers of foreign nationals and all those who are holding Lebanese nationals to be inspired by the divine concepts of the blessed month of Ramadan and to release the hostages.

He also urged the international bodies seeking the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon to raise their voices for the release of Lebanese detainees in the Al-Khiyam and Israeli prisons.

Mine Explodes Inside French Embassy Compound
NC0405071788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] A land mine planted inside the French Embassy compound in the Clemenceau area [West Beirut] exploded last night, causing only property damage.

6 Injured in West Beirut Explosion 4 May
NC0405142288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] An explosive device went off this afternoon in the Carmen Cinema located in the Al-Mazra'ah area of West Beirut. A security source said six persons were injured.

He estimated that the device contained 1 kg of TNT. The injured have been taken to Al-Barbir Hospital.

Syrian Tank Convoy Seen on Khaldah-Al-Damur Road
NC0205091288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] The security authorities have declined to disclose the destination of the convoy of Syrian tanks that was seen on the Khaldah-Al-Damur Road yesterday afternoon. It has been estimated that there were 30 tanks, which were carried on special transporters.

PNSF Official Killed; Camp Clashes Erupt
NC0305204288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Intermittent rocket and machinegun clashes between gunmen of the PNSF and the Fatah Movement have been going on in the Burj al-Barajinah camp since 2015 today.

The clashes erupted after PNSF official Abu Firas was killed as he tried to leave a position surrounded by Fatah fighters near the Austrian school at 1700 today.

Birri Reportedly Requests New Iranian Ambassador
NC3004071088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] According to reports from western Al-Biqa', an armed clash took place between Amal and Hizballah elements in 'Ayn al-Tinah town during Thursday-Friday night. Similar clashes had taken place earlier in Suhmur, Yuhmur, and Mashgharah.

According to information from the south, Hizballah has gone underground in an attempt to regroup its elements following the blow it was dealt by the Amal Movement. The reports confirm that Hizballah is establishing groups in old Sidon and its environs.

On the other hand, the visit of Ayatollah Jannati and his delegation and their efforts and contacts in Lebanon have confirmed the deep differences between Hizballah and Amal, particularly with regard to the security of the south and the attitude toward the UN forces.

It has been learned in this respect that Minister Nabih Birri has requested the appointment of a new Iranian ambassador to replace incumbent Ambassador Ahmad Dastmalchiyan, whom he holds largely responsible for the recent incidents between Amal and Hizballah.

Hizballah Forms 'Secret Military Cells' in South
NC0405095588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] According to sources in the Amal Movement, Hizballah is forming secret military cells in the south with the help of the Yasir 'Arafat wing of the Fatah movement.

Informed sources have also revealed that differences of opinion exist within the Amal Movement on the issue of Iranian mediation between Amal and Hizballah. These sources added that Bassam Tulays, head of the Amal Movement's Political Security Department, is opposed to the idea of Iran's mediation for fear that such mediation would lead to the reconstruction of Hizballah strength with support from Iran.

Hizballah Moving to Suburb; Amal Clash Foreseen
NC0405065788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] According to Arab diplomatic sources in Beirut, Hizballah is secretly transferring fighters and military equipment to Beirut's southern suburb in anticipation of another potential military action by the Amal Movement against Hizballah.

It is known that Hizballah men are joining Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli's group at the Shaykh 'Abdallah camp in Ba'labakk. They are being transported through Al-Shuf to Beirut, where Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah distributes them among the Hizballah centers in the suburb.

General Talas Meets With Soviet Admiral 3 May

JN040656 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, received Admiral Sorokin, first deputy chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, and his delegation at his office today.

The Soviet military attache in Damascus attended the meeting. The talks dealt with cooperation and friendship among the two friendly armies and countries, and ways to promote them.

Admiral Sorokin arrived in Damascus yesterday on a visit to Syria that will last several days. He visited the martyrs' cemetery in Najha, laid a wreath of flowers at the martyr monument, and wrote the following statement in the visitors book:

The people in our country are fully aware of the war. They highly appreciate the Syrian people's heroic steadfastness in defending their homeland.

The guest delegation also visited the liberated city of Al-Qunaytirah. Adm Sorokin described his impressions. He said: Al-Qunaytirah is a living witness to the brutality of the Israeli aggressors because the Zionists are the inheritors of fascism and Nazism.

He added: Al-Qunaytirah is a symbol of the manhood, steadfastness, and heroism of the Syrian people and their Armed Forces.

Media Reaction to Israeli Lebanon Operation

Action Linked to Elections

JN031244 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1135 GMT 3 May 88

[Station Commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The leaders of Israeli terrorism are more aware than most that actions of revenge and limited or widescale incursions have never prevented the renewal of resistance to Israeli occupation.

The terrorist military establishment in Palestine provides the best example of such a clear fact. By this we mean the decisive proof experienced in the occupied Arab territory, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon.

These territories are under the yoke of occupation. Israeli forces, supported by various weapons and a great deal of hatred and racism, are being deployed in large and small cities and in refugee camps and villages. Daily they are killing, terrorizing, and repressing, and yet with every morning resistance to the occupation is renewed, its determination is not weakened by the heavy deployment of the occupation forces, and its valor is not diminished by the daily sacrifices for freedom.

The leaders of Israeli terrorism realize that actions of revenge, searches, and incursion have not prevented in the past and will not prevent in the future the continuation and escalation of the resistance. In both cases the reason is crystal clear to us and to our enemy.

The leaders of terrorism and the generals of repression want the actions of revenge to soothe the Israelis and to convince them that Israel is still strong and capable of striking everywhere.

It is an Israeli policy that aims to achieve both strategic and tactical objectives at the same time. The policy seeks to strengthen faith in the Zionist project by encouraging confidence in Zionist achievements and in the possibility of maintaining the status quo—something which clashes directly with phenomena that impose themselves on the Zionist-imperialist reality.

By this we mean the clear tendency of many Israelis and of the world public to believe in the futility of the illusions of occupation and the fait accompli, and the increased thinking in the future by many people in light of the changes and the balances of power that will impose themselves on Israel whether it likes it or not.

The second interim matter in the Israeli policy of revenge is linked to the forthcoming Israeli elections. Such a policy constitutes an election issue for Israeli voters of various inclinations.

Clearly, the leaders of terrorism and the graduates of the schools of murder such as Shamir, Rabin, Bar-Lev, and others want to furnish proof that they are more capable than others of murder and terrorism and that they do not retreat 1 single inch on the expansionist Zionist project.

No one can outdo Shamir and Rabin and their generals in the contests of murder and terrorism. They have proven they are professional killers and loyal sons of the Israeli terrorist organizations such as the Haganah, Stern, Irgun Zvei Le'umi, and others.

However, they are not alone in that regard. All those who are in the Israeli military and political kitchen are competing in carrying the weapons of death and are preparing to kill the Arabs.

In this regard there is no difference between Shamir and Peres, who said exactly the same thing as Shamir in his election platform.

As for the Arabs, the matter is also crystal clear. Israeli repression and revenge will not be able to halt the resistance to occupation and will not prevent the Arab forces of steadfastness and confrontation from opposing and confronting the occupation and compelling the occupiers to go.

The reason is also simple and clear: It is that the Arab nation's only option is to confront the occupation. The Arab nation cannot commit suicide so that the expansionist Zionist project can succeed.

There is one other thing which the leaders of Israeli terrorism know and which the Arabs also know. It is that Israeli revenge, repression, and terrorism no longer frightens anyone, because the Arabs have experienced it and know how to respond to it now or tomorrow. Here lies the essence of the Israeli failure and the beginning of the recession of the expansionist Zionist project.

Papers View 'Aggression'

JN040834 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 4 May 88

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Enemy Will Only Reap Defeat," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: When the Zionist enemy forces invaded Lebanon in 1982 they described that aggressive invasion as the Peace for Galilee operation.

However, developments and events that followed the aggression against Lebanon proved that it is impossible for the Zionist enemy to achieve its expansionist objectives by invading Lebanon.

In light of this situation, the occupation forces were compelled to retreat to the border strip in southern Lebanon which they called the security strip area.

This retreat was brought about by the escalation of the heroic fedayeen operations by Lebanese resistance men. The occupation forces had no choice but to admit defeat in Lebanon, the failure of its expansionist schemes, and the collapse of the theory of Israel's security.

This was followed by the abrogation of the 17 May agreement, the defeat of U.S. policy in the Lebanese arena, the escalation of Lebanese national resistance operations, and the heavy losses inflicted on the occupation forces. All of this has revealed the failure of invasion, occupation, and the attempts to turn Lebanon into a Zionist-U.S. protectorate.

AL-THAWRAH adds: If by its new aggression against the eastern sector in southern Lebanon Israel seeks to turn back the clock by carrying out a policy of force and pursuing expansionist ambitions, then this will have the same fate as the Peace for Galilee operation.

At any rate, the Zionist enemy leaders can not ignore how the occupation forces were drowned in the Lebanese sands and on its open battlefields. This is because any Zionist aggression can only be confronted by further resistance, struggle, and the defense of all Arab Lebanon. This new aggression will fail and will be defeated.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Our Lebanese masses and their national, pan-Arab, and progressive forces, through the support of steadfast Syria, are able to foil the enemy's expansionist plans and defeat the Zionist aggression.

Under the headline "The Objectives of the New Zionist Aggression," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The treacherous Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon provides unequivocal proof of Israel's expansionist and aggressive nature.

The Zionists' statements which have accompanied this brutal aggression prove that the several strategic agreements between Tel Aviv and Washington have not been confined to extending aid, from a loaf of bread to nuclear weapons, but there is also coordination on all issues.

AL-BA'TH adds: In full coordination with the Zionist enemy, Washington is currently exacerbating the situation in the Arabian Gulf through a military build-up in the region which is being undertaken without justification.

As clear as it is, the objective is to preoccupy the Arabs with minor issues and consequently give Israel an opportunity to abort the popular Arab uprising. Once again the new bestial Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon stresses the need for an Arab stand capable of dealing with developments that could occur at any moment.

This urges us to say that the Arabs should seriously and frankly decide the situation by making others understand that the top priority is the conflict with the Zionist enemy and, consequently, we should base our dealings with all sides on this fact.

If we do not do this, then it will not be unlikely for us to be turned into protectorates in the future just as the Zionists and Americans plan.

Afghanistan

BAKHTAR Views Najibullah Visit to India

LD0405083288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 1457 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Kabul, May 3, BAKHTAR—The imminent friendly and official visit of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, to India at a time when political transformations have occurred in the interest of peace and security is of great significance. This is also important for the cause of peace and stability in the region of Asia.

The Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of India as founders and active members of Non-Aligned Movement have profound cultural and historical relations. Both countries are pursuing the policy of peace and the principle of peaceful co-existence, non-aggression and non-use of force for the solution of international and regional disputes.

Afghanistan and India adhere to the principles of Non-Aligned Movement. Both countries act against colonialism, neo-colonialism, neo-apartheid and racial discrimination.

The years of revolution clearly show that India has supported the peaceful stand taken by Afghanistan and the revolutionary transformations taken place in Afghanistan. The imperialist undeclared war against non-aligned and independent Afghanistan has been condemned by India.

The Republic of India has given its strong support to the policy of national reconciliation in Afghanistan and the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan aimed at ending war, fratricide and securing peace in the country.

The visit of N.D. Tiwari, Indian foreign minister, to Kabul in May last year showed that the Indian leaders are deeply interested in the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan and securing of peace in Asia.

He considered the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan as agreeble to the interest of the people of Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Iran and other neighbouring countries.

The Republic of India hailed the statements of the leaders of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union on the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. India called the conclusion of Geneva agreements between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as one of the gains of the world peace.

It has evaluated the fulfillment of the provisions of the accords as a major factor in the normalisation of the situation in Afghanistan and the situation around it.

A silent example of India's contribution to Afghanistan is the gratis aid assistance of Indira Gandhi Child Health Institute in Kabul at a worth of 283 million Afghanis.

The visit of Najibullah to India will further strengthen the traditional friendship and relations of the people of Afghanistan and India. It will strengthen the cause of peace.

The people of Afghanistan consider President Najibullah's visit to India at a time when the Geneva agreements were signed as another positive step towards peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region in Asia.

CUMHURIYET Interviews Guerrilla Leader

NC0405085488 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 28 Apr 88 p 14

["Exclusive" interview with Azadbeg Karimi, leader of the Islamic Provinces Union Front in northern Afghanistan, by Tarik Ersoy in Istanbul; date not given]

[Text] [Ersoy] What do you expect from your visit to Turkey?

[Karimi] My visit is that of a Turk to his homeland.

[Ersoy] Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, who is the leader of seven guerrilla organizations, has been reluctant to recognize you. How do this situation and your disagreements with him affect your organization?

[Karimi] It is true they do not recognize us. No one has recognized the existence of Turks in Afghan history, or, indeed, at the present time. The Turks did not have an organization in Afghanistan until recently.

Our organization is a revolutionary one which came into being under revolutionary conditions in Afghanistan. We exist and we are organized. We control territory in Afghanistan.

The organization has about 41,000 armed guerrillas who are supported by the people. Furthermore, we have men in three of the seven guerrilla organizations. They are secret members of our organization and will support us.

[Ersoy] What will you do when the Soviet Army withdraws from Afghanistan?

[Karimi] I believe the Russians will not withdraw completely from Afghanistan. They will leave behind their advisers and collaborators. The Russians have been defeated in Afghanistan.

The occupation and the subsequent defeat have been a disaster for the Russians. That is why they have been compelled to withdraw.

[Ersoy] Will the withdrawal of 115,000 Soviet troops not create a vacuum in the military balance in Afghanistan?

[Karimi] I am not saying that all those troops will be withdrawn. We cannot be sure about figures.

[Ersoy] What will the position of your organization be in relation to other guerrilla organizations if the war escalates after the Soviet troops withdraw?

[Karimi] First of all, we must continue to fight against the Russians until they are totally defeated. The Afghan mujahidin will continue to wage their holy war.

Naturally, the Afghan mujahidin will create their own structure and set up their own government. It should not be forgotten that 80 percent of the territory of Afghanistan is controlled by the mujahidin. Only the cities and some guardposts remain for the mujahidin to take over.

[Ersoy] How will you contribute toward that undertaking?

[Karimi] We want our people to have a voice in any agreement that is concluded in Afghanistan.

[Ersoy] Does Gulbuddin Hikmatyar share this view?

[Karimi] Whatever God wills will come to pass.

[Ersoy] But what does Hikmatyar think about the possibility of your participation in the government to be formed after the withdrawal of the Russians?

[Karimi] I have not yet met with him to discuss these matters. We shall have to wait and see. I am more concerned with the future of the Afghan Turks at the present time.

Bangladesh

Officials Report Insurgent Attacks 'Repulsed'

BK0405085788 Hong Kong AFP in English 0831 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, May 4 (AFP)—Bangladeshi forces have repulsed two attacks by suspected tribal insurgents on a security post in the southeastern Chittagong Hills in the last two days, official sources said Wednesday.

There were no apparent casualties on either side after suspected Shanti Bahini rebels attacked a post in Betchari town in Khagrachari Hill District Monday and Tuesday, they said.

Bangladeshi forces shot back at the assailants, forcing them to retreat into forest towards the border, local officials said by telephone.

The attacks took place a few kilometers from Bangladesh's border with the Indian State of Tripura, they said.

Khagrachari officials have stepped up security in the troubled border hills, imposing restrictions on nighttime movement and intensifying patrols, since the rebels fired at an army camp near Khagrachari Thursday. A 25-year-old tribesman was killed during the exchange.

The guerrillas have been fighting a 14-year bush war for autonomy and removal of Bengali-speaking Moslem settlers from the 13,000-square-kilometer (5,200-mile) Bangladeshi hill area bordering Tripura State and Burma.

Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Rashid Chowdhury has said the government fears the spurt of killings might also be aimed at foiling Dhaka's efforts to prepare for the return of Chakma tribal refugees from Tripura.

The rebels have launched at least four raids on Moslem settlers in the past two weeks, killing more than 60 people and setting ablaze nearly 100 houses.

The victims included women and children who were shot dead or died in burning houses during night attacks.

India

Najibullah Arrives for 'Historic' Visit

BK0405074888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] The president of Afghanistan, Dr Najibullah, arrived in New Delhi a short while ago on a 3-day official visit to India at the invitation of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

From the airport he drove to the Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] where he was received by the president, Mr R. Venkataraman; the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; many union ministers, diplomats, and others.

He was given a 21-gun salute before he inspected the guard of honor presented by the contingents of the three services.

Talking to newsmen at Rashrtrapati Bhavan, Dr Najibullah said his visit is undoubtedly of historic significance which would contribute in further consolidation and expansion of relations between the two countries. He said it would also greatly contribute in all spheres of bilateral cooperation.

Official Briefs Parliament on Carlucci Talks

BK0405080588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] India has conveyed to the United States that supplying arms to Pakistan even after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan will force an unnecessary arms race in the region putting severe strain on India's development expenditure.

India's concern in this regard was conveyed to the U.S. defense secretary, Mr Frank Carlucci, when he visited New Delhi last month as part of the ongoing high-level dialogue between India and the United States.

This information was given by the minister of state for defense, Mr Santosh Mohan Dev, in the Lok Sabha today. Replying to a supplementary, the minister said that both the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the defense minister have expressed apprehensions on the subject during the discussions with the U.S. defense secretary.

The U.S. defense secretary was also informed that India has enough proof to show that Pakistan is supplying arms to the terrorists.

Iran

Foreign Ministry on Saudi Action in Jeddah

LD0405065288 Tehran IRNA in English 0618 4 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—The Iranian Foreign Ministry said here Tuesday that Saudi police agents on the same day had raided the Iranian Consulate in Jeddah and forcibly carried away its Iranian staffers to a yet unknown location. An informed source at the Iranian Foreign Ministry described the Saudi behavior as "a blatant violation of international conventions."

Earlier in the week the Saudis unilaterally severed diplomatic relations with Iran in the wake of continued bickering between Saudi and Iranian officials on number of Iranian pilgrims to Mecca this year and on the more crucial point on whether or not they should be allowed to stage unity demonstrations in Mecca along with other pilgrims as a symbolic gesture of Muslim world alliance against "tyrannical world powers."

The expression is commonly said of the United States in post-revolution Iran and of the big powers symbolically described in the religious terminology of Iranians as "the camp of unbelievers."

In the wake of the rupture of relations the Saudis gave a deadline to the Iranian Embassy staffers for leaving the Saudi soil but raided the consulate before the end of the deadline.

On July 31 last year and during the annual Muslim ritual Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims in Mecca inspired by Imam Khomeyni's spiritual support staged demonstrations in Mecca condemning "the camp of the infidels."

Saudi police, including many plainclothes armed agents of the government, tried to disperse demonstrators using batons and fire arms.

400 plus Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims lost their lives in their unprepared encounter with the Saudi police.

'Illegal Action' Criticized

LD0405123988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1104 GMT 4 May 88

[Political commentary]

[Text] In an illegal action contrary to all international norms and standards, the Consulate of the Islamic Republic of Iran was attacked yesterday by the regime of the Hijaz.

This action was the ugliest encounter by that regime with the consulate staff. In the past there have been many examples of inappropriate behavior regarding the comings and goings and activities of the consulate, which were admitted. However, not only were those unlawful activities allowed to continue, they peaked during the deadline period given by the Hijaz regime.

The increase in such unlawful acts by the Hijaz regime demonstrates its political desperation and the heightening of the anger and animosity of the United States and reactionaries of the region toward the Islamic revolution of Iran.

Yesterday's action by the Hijaz regime, which is in clear violation of international norms and principles, cannot be explained in any way. It can only be regarded as a vengeful and provocative act, especially as those actions were committed at a time when the staff of the Iranian Consulate in Jeddah were preparing themselves to return to their country and the aircraft to return them to Tehran had been sent to Arabia.

The occupation of the Iranian Consulate in Jeddah and the inspection of its papers and facilities was a step completely contrary to international norms and principles and should be condemned.

In reaction to this illegitimate and unlawful action by the Hijaz regime, the mass media affiliated with world arrogance and Zionism have tried to cover up the ugly nature of the deed carried out by the Saudi security forces, and in some cases they even tried to justify it. By raising irrelevant and false suppositions they pretend that the Hijaz regime was justified in its actions.

In view of the fact that the Hijaz regime's policies during the past year, including the bloody incident in Mecca during which more than 400 pilgrims to the House of God were martyred and thousands of others wounded, were planned inside the White House, one can say with certainty that the latest imperialist attack was carried out within the same framework.

In great probability, the aim behind this illegal and illegitimate act of the Hijaz regime in attacking the Iranian Consulate in Jeddah was to divert public opinion from the main and real reason for that regime's opposition to the Islamic revolution and its steps against arrogance and Zionism.

In fact, the regime ruling over Hijaz, by resorting to that act and other related moves, is trying to prove that the Islamic Republic of Iran is allegedly plotting against the regime of Arabia.

However, it is very clear to international observers and to the Muslim people of the region that the Hijaz regime is worried about and opposed to the pilgrims' Death to Israel and Death to America slogans.

Security Officials Arrest Saudi 'Agent'
LD0405140288 Tehran IRNA in English 1338 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—Security officials have arrested an agent of the Riyadh regime who had entered the country illegally with rls 300 million (dlrs 4.5 million) to spread Wahhabi schism and the American brand of Islam, revealed an Information Ministry official today.

In an interview published by the morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI here Wednesday, the official said intelligence reports have confirmed the close links between Wahhabi grouplets inside the country, the Hijaz regime and American agents, in light of which such agents will be dealt with as spies.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Israeli Aggression
LD0405140888 Tehran IRNA in English 1357 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry today condemned the Zionist regime's latest aggressions against south Lebanon as an indication of an all-out politico-military attack by global arrogance on Islam, calling on the Muslim world to seriously counter the plot.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said here Wednesday that the savage attack of Zionist forces on south Lebanon and detention of dozens of defenceless Muslims there once again confirms the barbarous, aggressive nature of the regime occupying holy Jerusalem.

He said that such acts of savagery only betray the depth of the Zionist regime's weakness in confronting the struggles of Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims in south Lebanon as well as its helplessness in containing the ongoing Muslim uprising in occupied Palestine.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman called on all Islamic, Arab and non-aligned countries and international organizations to react to such inhuman acts and not to embolden this illegitimate entity by keeping silent on such crimes.

Tehran Commentary Examines U.S. Gulf Policy
NC0305125988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 3 May 88

[Central News Unit research group commentary: "U.S. Policy in the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] At a time when U.S. aggression in the Persian Gulf and its overt support for the Iraqi regime is manifesting itself more clearly each day, particularly in its attacks on Iranian interests in the region, the U.S. defense secretary sought to justify Reagan's militaristic policy by announcing a program of support for the Gulf's so-called neutral vessels.

This decision is an affirmation of the U.S. Administration's policy, which seeks to further its strategic objectives by means of imposing and expanding its influence in the region.

To attain such objectives, the Reagan administration is striving to escalate tension in the Persian Gulf as much as possible.

For purposes of bolstering its presence in the region, the United States is pursuing numerous objectives, the most important and fundamental being to increase pressure on the Islamic Republic and to force it into some sort of compromise.

It was for this reason that the policy of a war without a victor [as heard] was planned in overt support of Iraq. This policy is being consistently pursued. The head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee admitted recently that the actual objective of the United States in the Persian Gulf is not to protect the waterway, but to support the Iraqi regime.

In view of the fact that the Persian Gulf is the region's only link to the open sea and that the Islamic Republic of Iran has innumerable interests in this vital waterway, protecting the security of the Persian Gulf is vitally important to Iran.

However, the U.S. Government, with its ever-increasing presence in the Persian Gulf, is willing to give the Iraqi regime a free hand to indulge in even greater provocations in the region.

Under such circumstances, the U.S. forces' aggressive actions in the Persian Gulf confirm that the reason for their presence there is not to bring about a just termination to the imposed war.

By violating their neutrality in the imposed war, they have expanded the war to all the regional countries and seriously endangered the security of the region. The Americans are seeking to transfer the crisis from the borders of occupied Palestine to the borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

However, their policy may also result in the destruction of human and material resources in the region. The consequences of this are already evident in the utterances of most of the leaders of the southern littoral states regarding the threat to the region's security due to the ever-increasing U.S. presence.

The other U.S. objective in the region is to support regimes like those of the Al Sa'ud. Such regimes are constantly striving to preserve Western interests and exert efforts to support the United States.

Also, these regimes are serving Saddam's military objectives. They sell oil to the 'Aflaqi Iraqi regime and frequently the Saudi or Kuwaiti flag has been seen on vessels carrying cargo bound for Iraq.

In addition, Kuwait has never officially denied that its ports are being used for Iraq's benefit. Therefore, U.S. actions are seen as a use of force and as overt support for the Iraqi regime and its military allies.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's policy regarding Persian Gulf security is clear and rational: It believes that the security of the Persian Gulf is the responsibility of all the countries of the region.

It interprets the presence of all foreign forces in the region as a blow to the region's security. As the country with the longest border on the Persian Gulf, Iran is interested in the safety of this region.

If the Islamic Republic of Iran's safety in the Persian Gulf is threatened by any country and if its interests are seriously threatened, it will fiercely defend itself.

In the words of the imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council, the battlefield for retaliation will not remain confined to the Persian Gulf.

Kuwaiti Hezbollah Calls for 'Crushing Blows'

NC0405093288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] According to IRNA, the spokesman for the Kuwaiti Hezbollah has issued a statement announcing that the direct military intervention by the Arch-Satan in the Persian Gulf war and overt American support for the infidel Iraqi regime further confirm that Muslims in general, and those of the region in particular, must play a greater role to ensure the victory of Islam and the defense of Islamic countries.

In this way, they will cut off the hands of the oppressors in the region, the statement said. Therefore, the nations of the region should set up Hezbollahi cells and the mojahedin should inflict crushing blows on the subservient Persian Gulf governments and their installations.

In the statement, the Kuwaiti role in recent events is referred to as follows: The Kuwaiti ruling family has played a consistently disgraceful role in plots that fan the flames of war. Among these is its support of Saddam in various economic and propaganda areas.

Kuwait invited the American forces to the Persian Gulf. At the same time it embarked on brutal measures against the Muslim Kuwaiti nation by imposing restrictions on freedom, filling the prisons, and subsequently torturing and executing the Kuwaiti people's offspring. It has also pillaged the country's wealth for Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah.

The statement adds: Just as Saddam murders his own people by using chemical weapons, the Kuwaiti regime has also embarked on the foolish policy of killing its own people, destroying the country, allowing Iraq to use Bubiyan Island, and making its military installations available for the use of helicopters and Army aviation divisions during Iraq's joint onslaught with the United States on Al-Faw.

In conclusion, the statement adds: We declare the opposition of all the Kuwaiti people to the policy of the Kuwaiti ruling regime, particularly to its latest acts of assisting Iraq in its attacks.

Flag of Freedom on Secret Talks With France

NC0405085088 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] It is being reported in Tehran's knowledgeable circles that 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his associates had secret contacts with the leaders of the French Socialist Party last week.

During these contacts, the Iranian side informed that party's leaders that they are prepared to secure the release of the French hostages who are currently being held by Hizballah in Lebanon.

The Iranian side stipulated that the release would be effected on the condition that the French president promise, after he wins the French presidential elections, to resume diplomatic relations with Iran.

The same reports say that the leaders of the French Socialist Party have not yet replied to this Iranian proposal.

Guardians, Mohtashemi Dispute Election Results

LD0305205188 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Following the opinion issued by the Council of Guardians last week concerning the high level of fraud and pressure involved in the commanded [farmayeshi] elections of the third Majlis, and the fact that the votes contained in 300 ballot boxes in Tehran have been invalidated, Mohtashemi, the regime's interior minister,

reacted sharply saying that the Council of Guardians' opinion was an act of treason against Islam and of confrontation with the Islamic Government.

Today the Council of Guardians rescinded what it had said in a letter to the Interior Ministry. In a new letter the Council of Guardians verified that elections in Tehran had been conducted properly and the Interior Ministry in turn expressed its thanks to the Council of Guardians and the supervisory election committees across the country.

It is evident that the Council of Guardians was intimidated and threatened by the Interior Ministry, which in reality tells of the defeat of the RESALAT [Tehran daily associated with the more conservative faction in the Council of Guardians] faction in the face of their rivals within this propaganda (?forum).

Undoubtedly, this happened on instructions from Khomeyni, showing once again the prevalence of the absolute despotism of the velayat-e faqih over the details of issues concerning the country.

At the same time, the RESALAT faction, which also has its own interest in mind when it comes to the second round of votes of the elections, is resorting to specific manipulative moves.

Supreme Judicial Council Rules on Farmers' Land

LD0305172588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] In an interview with our correspondent today, Mr Moqtada'i, member of and spokesman for the Supreme Judicial Council, informed all courts that received directives from the Supreme Judicial Council between 1982 and 1984 concerning land controlled by farmers that, following the Majlis' approval of the bill on the temporary cultivation of land, they should not issue evacuation orders for farmers.

WIH Spokesman Denies Iraqi Claim on Shelling

LD0405115488 Tehran IRNA in English 1235 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—A War Information Headquarters (WIH) spokesman here Wednesday categorically denied an Iraqi claim accusing Iran of having shelled the Iraqi border city of Darband-i Khan.

The spokesman added that the Baghdad regime by making such claims aims at justifying its attacks and shellings of the Iranian city of Abadan and the outskirts of Marivan and also is attempting to pave the way for future Iraqi attacks on Iranian residential areas.

The Iraqi regime through its repeated violations of the airspace of the Iranian cities during past week has proved that it has never ceased attacks on Iranian residential areas and will resume its crimes whenever possible.

The spokesman made it clear that the Islamic Republic of Iran due to Islamic and humanitarian reasons had always stayed away from attacking Iraqi non-military areas. However, he added, the Iraqi Ba'thist rulers should await a crushing response if they repeat their acts of mischief.

Hoveyzeh 'Tribes,' IRGC Hold Night Maneuvers

LD0305183588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] So our forces may be as prepared as possible to confront the plots hatched by world arrogance, the brave tribes of Hoveyzeh, together with the personnel of IRGC mobilization resistance bases of that district, carried out a night combat exercise under the name "We respond to your call, O Imam" [Labayk ya Imam].

While renewing their allegiance to the imam of the ummah, they displayed their combat power. The forces participating in this exercise deployed (?battle) equipment and military tactics while reconnoitering enemy positions and carried out a series of assault operations.

They were able to gain access to the predetermined targets in a short time. A group of IRGC commanders from Dasht-e Azadegan also took part in these maneuvers.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,191

LD0305173288 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 3, IRNA—Iranian naval forces, in addition to closely monitoring movement of four foreign warships Monday, intercepted and searched two tugboats towing vessels in the Strait of Hormuz but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain there was no Iraqi-destined cargo aboard them.

The 3191st Joint Staff communique, announcing the above, reported here Tuesday that the Islamic Republic Air Force carried out its routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday, providing air cover for the Navy and reconnoitering several vessels in the waterway.

On the battlefields, Iran's Muslim combatants heavily shelled Iraqi positions, troop concentration sites and supply routes Monday, killing an undetermined number of enemy soldiers and destroying several gun emplacements of theirs.

On Monday, heavy fire of Iranian combatants checked activities of Iraqi tanks in Panjwin, Sumar and Maymak, northwestern and western sectors besides suppressing enemy patrol units in 'Eyn Khowsh.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and some enemy bunkers destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts in artillery fuels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces yesterday, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Planes Bomb Shiraz

LD0405092888 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Shiraz, May 4, IRNA—An industrial point here was bombed by intruding Iraqi planes at 11:05 hours local time (07:35 GMT) today. A number of workers were wounded and some damage was inflicted in the attack. More details were not immediately available.

Iraqi Planes Downed Over Shiraz

LD0405101988 Tehran IRNA in English 1004 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Shiraz, Fars Province, May 4, IRNA—Two of a number of Iraqi planes which attacked an industrial center here Wednesday morning were shot down. The pilot of one bailed out and was captured.

There is no information yet on the fate of the pilot of the second plane. In a previous Iraqi air raid here today several civilians were martyred.

Iraqi Planes Bomb Gachsaran

LD0405101488 Tehran IRNA in English 1009 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Yasuj, Bovir Ahmad va Kohkiluyeh Prov., May 4, IRNA—An industrial point in Gachsaran region, in this province, was bombed by intruding Iraqi planes at 11:30 hours local time (08:00 GMT) today. There were no immediate reports on possible casualties and damage.

Gendarmerie Forces Depart

LD0305191288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] In continuation of the departure of fresh forces to the battlefronts, a large number of gendarmerie personnel of Gilan District left for the fronts this morning.

According to the Central News Unit in Rasht, in this ceremony, which was also attended by a number of commanders and personnel of the Gilan Gendarmerie, those departing for the fronts chanted: "Death to America," "Death to Israel", "War, war until victory," and "The Persian Gulf of Iran—the burial site of Reagan," before setting off.

Pakistan

India's Menon Meets With Ziaul Haq, Noorani

BK0305162588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon, has had talks with the Pakistani leaders in Islamabad. He called on the Pakistan president, Mr Ziaul Haq. Earlier, he had exchange of views on the situation in Afghanistan with the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, and the foreign secretary, Mr Abdus Sattar.

Our Islamabad correspondent R.K. Mathur reports that the leaders discussed the possible formation of a broad-based interim government in Kabul. Later, Mr Menon left Islamabad for New Delhi.

Asked by our correspondent as to what he would term as the achievements of his visit, Mr Menon said: Now we have a better understanding of the Pakistani objectives on Afghanistan. He hoped that by his visit he had been able to dispel the misconception in the Pakistani mind that India was trying to undercut Islamabad's objectives in any way.

Further on Meeting

BK0305155688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has expressed the hope that India and Pakistan will take appropriate steps to strengthen mutual trust and to carry forward the process of normalizing bilateral relations. He expressed this hope during his talks with Indian Foreign Secretary K.P.S. Menon who called on him in Islamabad this evening. During the meeting, the regional situation and the Afghanistan problem, with special reference to the signing of the Geneva accords, were reviewed. Bilateral matters were also discussed. The Indian foreign secretary conveyed a message of good wishes from the Indian prime minister to the president.

The Indian foreign secretary also called on the minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Noorani, in Islamabad. They exchanged views on further normalization of relations between Pakistan and India. Prospects for peace inside Afghanistan, particularly the statement made by the UN secretary general's personal representative, Diego Cordovez, on 8 April, were discussed. In his statement, Cordovez said that all parties to the Geneva accords had made the commitment to support the endeavors of the Afghan people to work out arrangements to establish a broad-based government in Afghanistan.

Earlier, Menon met the Pakistani foreign secretary.

The Indian foreign secretary departed for New Delhi this evening. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said he has held only general discussions as the purpose of his visit was not to seek any conclusions. He said these talks

have helped him understand better the Pakistani stand on Afghanistan problem. In reply to a question, he said India is neither trying to adopt a parallel policy on Afghanistan nor undercutting Pakistan's stand on this problem. He said issues relating to Siachen and East Punjab were also discussed, and the home secretaries of the two countries will meet soon for further discussions on these issues.

Talks on Siachen Planned

BK0405033288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon, has said that the day-long talks with the Pakistani leaders held yesterday helped in having a better understanding of the Pakistani objectives on Afghanistan. He was talking to newsmen at Islamabad Airport before leaving for New Delhi. Mr Menon said that the next round of talks between the defense secretaries of the two countries will be held in Islamabad on the 19th and 20th of this month. The two sides will discuss Siachen Glacier issue.

Our Islamabad correspondent, R.K. Mathur, reports that Mr Menon had talks with Pakistan President Mr Ziaul Haq, and the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani. He had detailed discussions with his counterpart, Mr Abdus Sattar.

Mr Menon could not call on the Pakistan Prime Minister Mr Junejo who was reported to be indisposed.

President on Geneva Accords, Soviet Ties

BK0405030888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that the signing of the Geneva accords will not only establish peace in Afghanistan, but will also greatly assist in strengthening friendly relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union. He was speaking at a dinner hosted by the Soviet ambassador in Islamabad last night in connection with the 40th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union. He was confident that with the accords, the situation in Afghanistan will be normalized and its nonaligned and independent status restored. He added that credit for the signing of the Geneva accords goes only to General Secretary Gorbachev.

The president said prospects of promoting economic and trade relations between the two countries are very bright and hoped that the volume of bilateral trade will increase considerably in future.

Referring to the Pakistan's relations with non-Muslim states, the president said that Pakistan knows how to coexist with non-Muslim states, whether communist or noncommunist. In this context he also referred to the exemplary relations between Pakistan and China.

Earlier in his welcome address, Soviet Ambassadsor Abdul-Rakhman Vezirov said the strict implementation of the Geneva accords will bring peace and prosperity in Afghanistan. He hoped that all-out efforts will be made for promoting mutual cooperation and understanding between Pakistan and the Soviet Union.

Press Note Issued on Situation in Karachi

BK0405023688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] A press note issued by the district magistrate of Karachi West says that curfew will not be relaxed today in Qasbah town and Muhammadpur. The press note adds that the situation was normal during the last 24 hours in Orangi town. However, rival groups suddenly opened fire at each other during the curfew relaxation hours in Qasbah town forcing the law enforcing agencies to intervene.

According to the press note, five persons were reported to be injured, two of whom later succumbed to their injuries. Arms and ammunition were recovered on the spot. The situation in the area is tense but under control.

Sri Lanka

Ruling Party Controls 4 Provinces After Polls

BK0305121488 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0949 GMT 2 May 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 3 (LANKA PUWATH)—Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene told the government parliamentary group meeting today that though many tried to give different interpretations to the verdict of the people at the recently conducted provincial council elections in four provinces, the fact remained that the UNP secured control and political power in the four provincial councils, states a press release issued by the office of the chief government whip.

He said that every party contests an election, whether it be presidential, general, provincial councils or local government, with a view to securing political power and the UNP had done just that in the four provincial councils in North Western, Sabaragamuwa, Uva and North Central. The UNP has also secured over 50 percent of the votes cast in the four provinces, thus, no combination of parties or any other party could have defeated the UNP.

President Jayewardene said that in the 1977 general elections, which was held on the basis of electorates, the UNP secured a five-sixths majority in parliament after getting 51 percent of the votes, which was a world record.

However to get a five-sixths majority under the proportional representation system they had to get at least 83 percent of the votes. Under the proportional representation system no party would get a two-thirds majority to enable any party to change the constitution. Therefore the UNP will control the provincial councils for the next 4 years.

"We came forward to win the provincial councils elections and we have won. That is the important matter. I wish to thank all MP's and others who worked as a team to secure a UNP victory. We are all happy about its outcome", said the president.

The president also said that there were several reasons given why a large number of voters did not vote or why so much ballot papers were spoilt. Some say it is due to the scare stories spread by terrorists, others say it is due to the SLFP boycott and yet some others say that it is due to personal animosities against individuals. But they could not definitely say what the reasons were now. The matter is being studied.

Mr Jayewardene called upon the MP's to work even harder at the forthcoming provincial councils elections in Western, Central and Southern Provinces. He called upon all to act with restraint upholding democratic traditions during the elections. They should not try to show their power, thus antagonising the people.

Several MP's expressed their views to improve the polling system at provincial council elections.

Mr A.M.S. Adhikari, deputy minister of lands and land development, said that when selecting the two "bonus MP's" for appointment to provincial councils, the two nominees who top the list of candidates of the party not selected be appointed. This proposal was approved by the MP's.

Mr Chandra Ranatunge, MP for Mawanella, said that at the counting centres certain tally sheets were given to mark the preference votes of candidates. These sheets were marked by over 40 officers and 5 agents are not enough to supervise the entry into the sheets. It is good to evolve a suitable system in consultation with the elections commissioner. He also said that anyone can spoil a ballot paper by just putting even a dot on it.

Mr Lionel Jayatilleke, minister of rehabilitation, suggested that counting be done at the polling station itself.

At the outset of the group meeting the group observed 2 minutes silence in memory of the late Mr G.V.S. De Silva. Mrs Samantha Karunaratne, the new MP for Rambukkana was welcomed to the group.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa said that four important bills—the 14th Amendement to the constitution, parliamentary elections (amendment) bill, presidential elections (amendment) bill and the referendum (amendment) bill will be discussed this week and said that since they are amendments to the constitution their passage would require a two-thirds majority.

He said that these changes to elections laws had been worked out for the past 4 years by a select committee and after entertaining suggestions from all parties and people. Therefore, their passage is long overdue.

The government parliamentary group at its meeting today decided to empower the cabinet to take suitable action which it deems necessary in regard to the judgment given by Justices Wanasundera, Alwis and Seneviratne regarding certain service concessions given to Category I of nurses on a cabinet decision.

The resolution passed by the group to this effect reads as follows: "The UNP parliamentary group views with concern the decision of the Supreme Court seeking to over-rule a cabinet decision. This is a violation of the supremacy of parliament, which represents the people. The group requests the cabinet to consider this judgment and to take necessary action to prevent any erosion of the sovereignty of the people.

JVP Terrorist Killed; Arms Recovered

BK0205101088 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0915 GMT 2 May 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 2 May (LANKA PUWATH)—A southern terrorist, described by police as being a hardcore member of the Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) [People's Liberation Front] was shot dead in a police ambush at Paraduwa, Akuressa at 1750 hours (local time) yesterday, official sources told LANKA PUWATH. They gave the name of the dead terrorist as K. Chandradasa who was allegedly responsible for 9 murders and robberies.

They said that as the police lay in ambush Chandradasa and one other terrorist had, on being challenged, opened fire. Chandradasa had been killed while the other terrorist had escaped. Police recovered a shot gun and a locally made revolver (Galkatas) at the scene of the ambush.

A report from Meegasyaya, Hambantota, also in Sri Lanka's deep south, states that 5 southern terrorists had forced P. Ariyadasa out of his house at [words indistinct] and killed him.

At Amparai, Sri Lankan security forces raided a home of a relative of a former police reserve constable who is identified as a JVP activist and seized 2 hand grenades. This followed the arrest of the former reserve police constable, at Bulathsinhala, last Saturday.

Indian Troops Raid LTTE Bases, Seize Arms
BK0305095588 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0848 GMT 3 May 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 3 May (LANKA PUWATH)—The Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF], who yesterday with the information and assistance given by the Sri Lankan Army captured 26 LTTE terrorists responsible for the massive landmine explosion last Sunday at Sittaru in the Trincomalee District and the massacre of passengers travelling in a van at Awaranthalawa, continued to hound the gang of LTTE terrorists operating in an area stretching from Vavuniya in the north to Mannar in the northwest and seized a massive arsenal of sophisticated weaponry from an LTTE base at Raisanthiramkulam, 12 kilometers south of Wirawil in Mannar.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that among the weapons seized were two AK-47 rifles, 21 sub-machine guns, 3,461 rounds of 0.50 high calibre machine gun ammunition used for firing at aircraft particularly helicopters, 4,312 rounds of 9-mm ammunition, one 7.62 self-loading rifle, one federal gas gun of U.S. manufacture, a Lawnchester gun, one .30 carbine of U.S. manufacture, one [word indistinct] spring federal weapon, two number 4 mark 2 bolt action rifles, 14 machine guns of [words indistinct] calibre, one high power 52" mortar with markings MP832, and 37 magazines of assorted ammunition.

Earlier, the IPKF raided a smaller LTTE base at Vavuniya and seized 3 improvised explosive devices (IED), 30 kilograms of explosives and 100 kilograms of assorted wire nails used in the manufacture of IED's and landmines, 200 metres of Cordex, electric detonators and one jeep carrying the LTTE monogram.

Meanwhile, a report from Batticaloa states that Muttukumar Sindojai, an LTTE member, was captured with a hand grenade in his possession, while in another incident Thangarajah was shot dead by terrorists.

At Akkaraipattu, 2 LTTE terrorists were apprehended. One of them was Surenrajah alias Sujeeva described as a bodygurard of 2 LTTE terrorists codenamed Neptune and Sudha. These terrorists too, (?later) surrendered.

A report from Palali states that 3 terrorists were apprehended by the IPKF while they were laying an IED.

At Achchuveli, the IPKF recovered one IED and apprehended eleven LTTE terrorists, 2 of whom were engaged in laying an IED.

At Champonpattu, three LTTE terrorists were captured by the IPKF.

At Trincomalee, the IPKF raided an LTTE base and shot dead two terrorists. The troops also recovered two AK-47 rifles, 9 magazines of ammunition, 4 mortar bombs, 4 grenades, one inter-communication radio set and two cyanide capsules.